Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

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Authority criticised for 'flogging' details about residents

COUNCIL SELLING PERSONAL DATA

Report by Pete Madeley

DUDLEY Council has been criticised for selling residents' data, raising more than £13,000 over five years.

West Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge said it was wrong that local authorities appeared happy to 'flog our data off to the highest bidder'.

Councils across the West Midlands have made nearly £100,000 by selling personal information, according to information released via a Freedom of Information request.

In the last six years local councils have sold data from the electoral register to hundreds of organisations and individuals. Buyers include credit reference agencies, insurance companies, property agencies and politicians.They pay up to £600 for a full copy of the register, including the names and addresses of voters.

Transactions dating back to 2012 for seven authorities in the West Midlands collectively brought in £97,501.50. Councils insist they are legally obliged to sell the register and fees charged are set by the Electoral Commission.

Privacy

But critics warn unscrupulous firms are abusing the system for marketing and publicity.

Former Sedgley councillor Mr Etheridge said: "This has been going on for years and has now become normal and accepted practice for many councils.

"It shows that, in this day and age, nothing is private. We need more privacy with our personal information and it is understandable that people are angry when they see councils making such huge profits from this."

Big Brother Watch director Silkie Carlo said: "No public authority should sell residents' personal information to private entities for profit. This sale of data leaves us open to targeted advertising and undermines trust in councils.

"The open register should be opt in rather than opt out – that way, we could truly see how many people want their data sold for marketing purposes."

Dudley Council made £13,825 in the last five years. The majority of the sales were to credit reference agencies, although a firm specialising in planning weddings shelled out £423.50 for an edited version of the list.

TAKE A PEAKY AT MUSEUM'S MOST POPULAR NIGHT

Visitors stylishly turned the clock back to the 1920s at the hugely popular Peaky Blinders Night at the Black Country Living Museum

IT was flat caps and flapper dresses as far as the eye could see as thousands of Peaky Blinder lookalikes strolled through the streets of the Black Country Living Museum.

The Dudley attraction, which was used for filming scenes for the hit TV 1920s gangster drama, hosted the special night on Saturday and it was a sell-out success.

Fans dressed up in the 1920s fashions and had flocked from all around the region to step out like the characters from the award-winning TV show, which stars Cillian Murphy and Helen McCrory.

Street theatre actors brought the world of the Shelby crime family and rival gangs to life, including fight scenes. There was also music and entertainment from the roaring 20s.

The event was so popular that tickets sold out within 24 hours of going on sale.

Visitors to the adult-only event, took to social media to comment on the 'fantastic' night.

The open air museum was used to film much of the show including scenes at Charlie's Yard, which was filmed by the canal, but CGI was used to add huge factories in the background.

Filming is about to begin for season five of Peaky Blinders, which returns next year.

PLANNING

Boss is worried by travellers' site bid

A BUSINESS boss has hit out at new plans for a traveller camp.

Denise McCarron, the boss of Cradley Enterprise Centre Ltd, fears losing trade at her storage facility if the site earmarked for the former Saltbrook Scrapyard, off Saltbrook Road, gets the go-ahead. The plans are for two residential pitches, which include a touring caravan, mobile home and dayroom, with six transit pitches, utility block and parking facilities. The applicant's name has not been revealed.

She says having the site opposite her business would mean losing customers.

ENVIRONMENT

Fly-tipping incidents are down by a fifth

ENFORCEMENT officers issued more than £7,000 in fixed penalty notices to fly-tippers in Dudley borough.

It comes as instances of illegally dumping waste in Dudley dropped from 1,069 during 2016/17 to 832 to 2017/18 – a 20 per cent drop.

The decrease in Dudley has meant the amount the borough spends cleaning up has fallen to £56,020 from £63,295 in the previous 12 months.

CHARITY

Hospice launching a new superstore

A FURNITURE and clothing superstore, raising money for Mary Stevens Hospice, is opening in Brierley Hill tomorrow (Friday).

Mary Stevens Hospice Trading Co has moved from Little Cottage Street into a 5,000 square foot superstore and warehouse on High Street, which will open its doors at 10am.

INSIDE

RAF ON PARADE FOR FREEDOM

PAGE 3

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Callous killer is sentenced to 15 years

Rickardo Wilson

A BRUTAL bully, who watched TV rather than call an ambulance as his former partner lay dying on the floor, has been locked up for 15 years.

Rickardo Wilson had been found guilty by a jury of the manslaughter of 44-year-old mother-of-eight Claire Harris and was last week sentenced by Judge Michael Challinor at Stafford Crown Court.

Judge Challinor told him: "You are a dangerous individual and you pose a significant risk to the public, particularly future partners. You were punching, slapping and strangling her as she struggled and fought for her life, until she was dead. You then left her on the floor and callously watched television."

The 50-year-old defendant claimed to have 'no idea' how Miss Harris came by the 86 injuries she suffered.

Asphyxia

There was no definitive cause of death but the pathologist said it was likely to have been asphyxia. There was deep internal bruising to her neck muscles.

The couple had split up but Miss Harris had allowed him to remain in her flat in Cinder Bank, Netherton – where he had lived intermittently since 2015 – while Wilson looked for accommodation and she stayed with her sons.

The victim was lured back to the address by a dinner invitation on January 23. A neighbour saw the pair struggling outside the flat with him holding her in a headlock while she shouted he was about to kill her. Wilson claimed he had used reasonable force on grandmother-of-six Miss Harris, saying she had been holding a knife.

Her family said in a statement: "Mom was a wonderful and kind-hearted person, who would help anyone."

'Show-off' motorcylist left boy brain damaged

A MOTORCYCLIST, who almost killed the boy he treated as his stepson while 'showing off' with the child riding pillion, has been jailed for three years.

Twelve-year-old Joshua Locke suffered 'catastrophic' brain injuries in the crash. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he will be seriously disabled for the rest of his life.

Martin Charles took the boy for a 30 minute 'spin' on the back of a stolen 125cc machine against the wishes of the youngster's mother, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, but the 30-year-old rider crashed into a car in Daisy Street, Coseley.

Charles had no valid licence nor insurance and had given his helmet to the boy to wear. He went onto the wrong side of the road to overtake a line of traffic waiting to turn into the Asda car park in Daisy Street, Coseley, but ploughed into a Ford Fiesta that had started to turn before the riders reached it.

Martin Charles

Speed

Experts said the machine had been travelling at an average speed of 42mph in a 30 limit zone before the August 6 smash.

Joshua's adult helmet was too large and flew off in the collision. The defendant suffered three broken ribs, two fractured vertebrae and a broken thigh. Police traced him to a hospital.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "He blames nobody but himself for causing catastrophic injuries."

Charles, of Fereday Street, Tipton, admitted causing serious injury by dangerous driving, failing to stop after an accident and having neither insurance nor a valid licence. Judge Dean Kershaw told him: "You put that young boy on a bike to show off. It was some kind of twisted bravado."

MP reacts as food bank issues appeal

Volunteer Sue Richens, Cllr Margaret Aston, Ian Austin, Labour's Cicely Thomas and supervisor Ronnie Wheeler

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin and members from Dudley North Labour Party donated £500 worth of food to Black Country Foodbank in Brierley Hill.

The donation comes after the food bank issued an urgent appeal after stock levels ran low.

Mr Austin said: "It's a scandal food banks are needed at all in this day and age, but more and more people are being hit by benefit cuts, or sleeping rough. The Black Country Foodbank does superb work in our community so we asked Labour members to help when they issued a call for help.

"I promised to match anything members contributed with the Good Causes fund I set up when I refused to take the MPs' pay rise and I reckon we've got donations or food totalling about £500 in just a couple of days."

The charity provided 182,000 meals between April 2017 to March 2018.

Motorcross row led to angry clash of fathers

A FATHER from Kingswinford knocked another man unconscious after a heated argument over their sons competing at a motocross event.

The two dads had a clash of heads after their teenage sons argued over one of them cutting the other up during the race. Andrew Woodhouse was knocked unconscious and had to go to hospital, whilst Matthew Bailey, aged 38, was later arrested.

Bailey initially denied assaulting Mr Woodhouse causing him actual bodily harm but changed his plea to guilty on the day of his trial.

Bailey, of Southern Cross, was given a four-month prison sentence suspended for 12 months after being subject to an electronically tagged curfew for 44 days.

Prosecutor Graeme Simpson said the two men's teenage sons had been racing their motocross bikes at an event near Stratford-upon-Avon in July 2016 when an argument broke out.

Offensive

Mr Woodhouse's son was complaining, using offensive language, that Bailey's son had impeded him and should have given way.

As a result, Bailey's wife went over and began to shout at the other teenager, at which point Mr Woodhouse told her not to talk to his son like that.

"The defendant was nearby, and the prosecution case is that he launched himself at the complainant," said Mr Simpson. "We say that it's a deliberate headbutt, the defendant's case is that there was 'a coming together of heads.'"

As a result of the blow Mr Woodhouse, who suffered bruising to his face and two broken teeth, was knocked unconscious and was taken by ambulance to hospital for treatment.

Jonathan Coode, defending, said: "This was a reckless act. There was no intention of causing injury. Had it been a truly hard blow, one would have expected a broken nose."

Shotgun blast injures boy, 8

AN eight-year-old boy and his stepfather were left wounded after being blasted with a shotgun at a teenager's birthday party in the Black Country.

The boy was hit in the arm by a shotgun pellet and his 30-year-old stepfather hit in the chest when a gunman, who is still at large, opened fire at Bilston Sports and Social Club on Friday.

Armed police swooped on the Wellington Road club after reports of shots at about 11.10pm. Detectives are now reviewing CCTV footage. The victims have both since been released from hospital.

Anyone with information should call 101.

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Green light for home despite objections

PLANS to turn a detached house into a residential home for youngsters have been given the green light by councillors, despite fears about drugs and the impact on children at a nearby school.

Dudley's development committee passed the plan to convert the five-bedroom home on Springfield Road, Halesowen, into a residential unit for three youngsters aged between eight and 18 at its meeting last week.

The application by PCF Residential Childcare Ltd stated it would be used for young people 'experiencing developmental difficulties and problematic early life experiences including attachment disorder, emotional behaviours and moderate to low learning difficulties'.

Councillors backed the scheme despite fears of residents that young children at a nearby school could be influenced by young people with behavioural problems.

Recommending councillors approve the change of use, planning officers stated that offering children a stable environment was akin to a residential use and noted that West Midlands Police had no objection.

Councillors also passed a similar application for a two-bedroom residential child care home in Lidden Road after they heard objections from a local resident.

Chair of governors must go, say MPs

DUDLEY'S four MPs have called for the chair of governors at the trust that runs Russells Hall Hospital to resign in the wake of serious failings in the hospital's A&E department.

In a letter to governors at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, the group said they had lost faith in the ability of Jenni Ord to hold the hospital's leadership to account.

The emergency department has been rated 'inadequate' in a report by the Care Quality Commission and dozens of deaths there are being investigated in an independent inquiry.

The letter was signed by Tory MPs Mike Wood (Dudley South), Margot James (Stourbridge), James Morris (Halesowen and Rowley Regis), and Labour's Ian Austin (Dudley North).

Ms Ord, who took up the post in January 2016, has vowed to stay on.

She said: "I know that the required improvements have not occurred as quickly as the board or our regulators would like.

"We are seeing improvements and I remain absolutely committed to ensuring our emergency department is the safest it can be for our patients."

Firm fined £1.5m over worker's death

Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited

A BRIERLEY Hill logistics company has been fined more than £1 million after a worker died when he was trapped between a trailer and his vehicle.

Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited employee Leighton Jardine was fatally injured while attempting to attach a trailer to his vehicle on January 22, 2016.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard that the trailer was parked on a slight slope, which was enough to allow it to roll forward trapping 60-year-old Mr Jardine, from Stafford.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident found safety management arrangements for coupling trailers to vehicles failed to take account of the slope.

Guilty

Tuffnells Parcels Express Limited, of Wallows Industrial Estate, in Fens Pool Avenue, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974. The company has been fined £1.5m and ordered to pay costs of £32,823.35.

A spokesman for Tuffnells said they expressed sincere regret for the failings of the business in the tragic incident that led to Mr Jardine's death, and added they have since invested more than £5 million in health and safety improvements across all Tuffnells depots.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Karl Raw, said: "Had Tuffnells taken the slope into account, simple measures could have been taken that would have prevented this incident. This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident."

RAF Cosford on parade for Freedom of Dudley

A DOUBLE celebration saw RAF Cosford receive the Freedom of Dudley while Battle of Britain commemorations were held.

Dudley-born Group Captain Tone Baker OBE, Station Commander at RAF Cosford, accepted the freedom scroll on the steps of Dudley Council House. It is the highest honour that can be granted by a local authority.

Councillors voted unanimously to honour the branch of the Royal Air Force and dozens lined the streets in Dudley on Sunday to show their support during a parade in which 60 personnel from the station marched through town along with six local air cadet squadrons. Music was performed by the RAF Cosford Voluntary Band.

A service was then held at St Thomas and St Luke's Church which paid tribute to the RAF heroes of the Battle of Britain before wreaths were laid at the cenotaph in Ednam Road.

Captain Baker, who joined the RAF at the age of 16 in 1989, said: "This honour is absolutely incredible. I was born in Dudley and raised here. I went to school here before attending the training corps.

Veterans

"When I joined the Royal Air Force, the first station I went to was RAF Cosford so to join these two together through the Freedom of Dudley is an incredible thing both for me professionally and personally and for the Royal Air Force.

"We have got veterans on parade so we can commemorate those who have given service to the Royal Air Force and armed forced. We also have cadets here, showing the next generation coming through. There is a great turn out and my mother and father are here."

The event was organised in partnership between Dudley Council and Dudley Royal Air Forces Association.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor, who presented the scroll, said: "It is quite a prestigious day for us and it is a great honour to be able to give this Freedom of the Borough. This is not something that happens everyday. The RAF and armed forces do a fantastic job for us by looking after the country. It is especially poignant as this year marks 100 years of the air force."

Dudley-born Group Captain Tone Baker OBE, Station Commander RAF Cosford, thanked the borough

On inspection for Dudley Mayor Cllr Alan Taylor

RAF Cosford personnel march through Dudley

NEWS IN BRIEF

Whitehall will not stop traveller site

A TRAVELLERS' transit camp in Coseley is set to go-ahead after a last ditch bid to stop it failed.

The Government says it will not call in plans for the site in Budden Road, despite outcry from residents and a plea by Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden.

It is now likely to be built after Lord Bourne, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, said that he will not intervene in Dudley Council's plans.

The council argues that having such a site means they can more quickly move on travellers from illegal sites.

Olympic hero to open new store

AN Olympic gold medallist will open a new supermarket in Lye this morning (Thursday)

Team GB star Laura Unsworth will open the Aldi store in Thorns Road. Laura, who won gold as part of the women's hockey team at Rio de Janeiro in 2016, will officially cut the ribbon with store manager Marius Snyman at 8am.

As part of Aldi's Get Set to Eat Fresh initiative, Laura will also visit pupils at Rufford Primary School after the store opening to chat about the Olympic Games and healthy eating.

Hospital sets up a clothing bank

DONATIONS of clothing are currently being sought by Russells Hall Hospital to give to vulnerable patients when they are discharged.

A team at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is setting up a clothing bank. Taahira Patel, senior discharge facilitator, said warm clothing would be ideal with the weather getting colder.

The clothes should be clean and undamaged.

Donations can be taken to the main foyer at the hospital between noon and 4pm on Thurday, September 27.

Neighbours in People's Postcode Lottery win

EIGHT lucky neighbours from Stourbridge are celebrating after winning the People's Postcode Lottery.

The residents with the postcode DY9 0TG, who had all signed up with the lottery, won the daily prize on Thursday.

Seven of the Compton Road neighbours have picked up cheques for £1,000 each, while the eighth has doubled their prize to £2,000 for playing with two tickets.

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Region is shown to have heart of gold

PEOPLE in the West Midlands have hearts of gold, according to a British Heart Foundation survey.

The figures show that over half (51 per cent) want to be remembered for their kindness above all else, while a third (33 per cent) want to be remembered for their family values and humour is important to more than a quarter (29 per cent).

Materialistic and professional achievements are valued less. Just one in eight (13 per cent) want to be remembered for their work and only a quarter want to be remembered for their wealth. Three quarters wished they could do more to help others.

£500 grants for outdoor learning

SCHOOLS are being encouraged to apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor learning resources, enabling children to get hands-on with nature.

Applications for the Local School Nature Grants are open from now up until November 30, with £550,000 in total up for grabs.

As well as receiving up to £500 worth of outdoor resources, schools will also receive a two-hour training session for staff on how to getting the most out of the equipment.

For more information and to apply for funding, visit the Learning through Landscapes website at ltl.org.uk/naturegrants/guidance.php.

Homeserve in search for staff

HOME assistance company HomeServe is holding two recruitment open days at its headquarters in Walsall. The business is seeking new customer service advisers and sales representatives to join its team.

The open days are at the offices in Cable Drive, today, Thursday, between 5pm and 8pm and Saturday, September 29, between 10am and 2pm. People are being invited to come along with the CV for interview. There is a starting salary of £18,200.

Memories of child migration recorded

PEOPLE originating from more than 30 different countries came together to celebrate the culmination of a project that has collected stories of child migration from the 1930s to 2015.

The Birmingham project began in May 2017, with individuals who had migrated to the city from all corners of the world interviewed.

The documents will be archived in the New Library of Birmingham.

Council want views on green spaces

PEOPLE are being asked to rate their local parks and open spaces in a bid to identify what improvements can be made.

Dudley Council has launched an online survey asking residents to comment on the borough's public open spaces.

The survey asks people how much they value open spaces, which areas they visit most often, how they get there and how they rate certain facilities such as parks, playing fields, natural green space areas, allotments, and children's play areas.

The information will be used to gain a better understanding of what people want from their green spaces and to identify what can be done to improve them.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We want to encourage everyone to lead healthier and more active lives, so it's really important we provide quality outdoor recreational spaces where people of all ages can enjoy all sorts of activities, whether that's walking the dog, cycling or having a kick about with the kids.

"We already know that many of our nature reserves, parks and children's play areas are popular with residents. This survey will help us to understand what people would like to see in our open spaces and tell us what we need to do to improve them and encourage more people to make the most of the facilities on their doorstep. I would encourage everyone to spare a few minutes and complete the survey."

The survey is available online – www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/dudleyopenspace – until 5pm on October 24.

Black Country heroes recognised for efforts

Report by Dayna Farrington

THEY are the best of the Black Country – and now they have been recognised for their hard work and dedication to their communities.

Six people from the region – including two cousins – were among those honoured with a British Empire Medal (BEM) award at a ceremony at Birmingham Council House last Wednesday.

The recipients were presented with the awards by West Midlands Lord Lieutenant John Crabtree OBE, after being named in the New Year's Honours and Queen's Birthday Honours.

Historian Terence Price, from West Bromwich, has been awarded a BEM for his services to his community. Apart from successfully campaigning and using his own money to prevent demolition of buildings such as Hill House, Foley fountain and the Pound, the 79-year-old researched and found West Bromwich's first War Memorial, which was hidden in Heath Lane Cemetery.

An avid collector of old photos and postcards, he has published eight books including one on Great Bridge & District. Money from the sales of his books have been ploughed into restoration projects and community initiatives. He also served 19 years as a West Bromwich magistrate.

He said: "I was greatly honoured to be awarded the BEM. I am very proud of being a West Bromwich man born and bred."

His cousin, 74-year-old Pauline Hodgetts, from Tipton, has been honoured for her passion for the town and its heritage. She created a memorial garden and stone to commemorate the life and athletic achievements of Jack Holden, the marathon runner; restored the drinking fountain in Victoria Park and is chairman of the cemetery group that worked hard to get a British Legion Island and Peace Garden.

Sixty-six-year-old Judith Morris has been honoured after she has trained thousands of young people in first aid. Mrs Morris, from Halesowen, has directly and indirectly been responsible for life-saving episodes since 1962 when she joined St John Ambulance.

Willenhall Rugby Club's Elfyn Pugh has used his passion for the sport to coach, mentor and organise conferences for more than 50 years. The 83-year-old established Willenhall RUFC and also developed rugby talent including support for Arnie Evans, John French, Eric Field and Graham Smith. At the age off 77, Elfyn was still involved in coaching rugby at primary schools.

Front, from left, Kathryn Livingston from Oxley (services to people with Dissociative Identity Disorder), Terence (Terry) Price from West Bromwich (services to community), Pauline Hodgetts from Tipton (services to community in Tipton), Judith Morris from Halesowen (voluntary service to first aid and young people). Back, from left, Elfyn Pugh from Willenhall (voluntary service to rugby), Jennifer Harrison from Halesowen (voluntary service to young people and community), David Walker from Rowley Regis (services to community), David Pearce from Cradley Heath (voluntary and charitable services to healthcare)

Kathryn Livingston, 61, from Wolverhampton, has been honoured for her work with the often unrecognised and misunderstood condition Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), also referred to as Multiple Personalities. In 1997, she founded First Person Plural (FFP) that specialises in working for those affected by DID.

David Walker, 63, has been honoured for his dedicated work over the last 20 years to helping young people in Sandwell. Mr Walker, who lives in Rowley Regis, is said to have been a life-changing mentor to teenage boys getting them to open up about their problems.

His efforts were cited during his time as a special constable and as a Justice of the Peace, where he often sits on student disciplinary panels. He is also a governor for two schools that are known for good community practice and he runs a garden club after school for Blackheath Primary School.

Cycle routes on towpath are set to get upgrade

PLANS have been unveiled to improve cycling links to railway and tram stations in the Black Country to encourage more people to use pedal-power and reduce vehicles fumes.

A new cycle infrastructure programme has been produced by Sandwell Council's strategic transport bosses and highlights work to be completed over the next two years. It includes towpath resurfacing works on the Birmingham Canal between Smethwick Galton Bridge and West Bromwich Street in Oldbury and to continue the link-up to the Dudley borough oundary.

Also mooted are improvements to pedestrian and cycle access to Sandwell and Dudley railway station via Bromford Lane, also resurfacing work on the towpath of Tame Valley Canal between Rushall Junction and Hill Farm bridge to continue in the direction of Tipton.

The report includes the creation of a segregated pedestrian and cycle route from Navigation Lane to Tame Bridge Parkway station along Walsall Road. There will also be improved cycle access works to Metro stations.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and economic growth, said: "We want the canal network to play a significant role in providing safe, off-road links for people who want to cycle to work, to link cycle paths with public transport and for people cycling as a leisure activity."

The programme was due to be discussed by Sandwell Council's cabinet yesterday (Wednesday).

Musicians hit right note for charity

A NIGHT of music will aim to raise funds for a Dudley-based charity.

Music groups from across the Dudley borough have been invited to perform in aid of the volunteer-led group Access in Dudley.

The Wombourne School of Music, Kast in Stone and students of Nathan Rose music school will put on a show alongside several other acts in an effort to give the disability charity a financial boost.

The event, which takes place at the Queens Cross Network community centre in Wellington Road on October 6, will start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and can be bought by emailing info@accessindudley.org.uk or calling (01384) 569505.

The charity, founded in 2004, helps disabled people live active lives.

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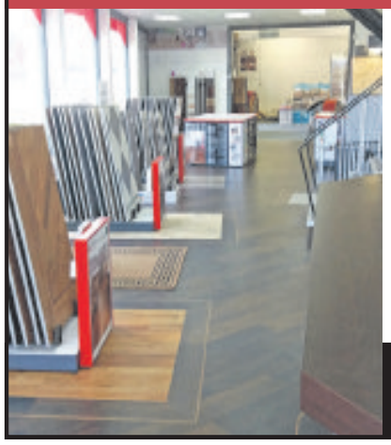

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Council may get rid of unpopular 3,000 homes

DUDLEY could lose almost 3,000 council homes, which are considered too costly to repair or maintain.

Councillors were this week being recommended to allow the demolition around 2,500 homes which are too costly to repair and sell off 375 other properties from its housing stock of 21,820. A report by housing chiefs says the council has 2,967 'red' properties, which would 'cost more to manage, maintain and invest in than they will generate in rent'.

It also argues 375 properties should be sold on the open market to avoid the discount tenants receive if they buy their homes, which can be as much as £50,000 for each property.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "The cost of managing and maintaining our existing council homes is estimated to be more than £1.2 billion pounds over the next 30 years.

"We have properties which have traditionally not been popular and have proven very difficult to let. Our resources are simply not sufficient to maintain all our homes to the standard we would want and it does not make economic sense to hold on to properties that we know are not popular, such as many of our high rise flats. It is sometimes better to dispose or demolish the properties and use the money to invest in maintaining and improving ones that people do want."

Pop star will meet and greet the fans

POP star Peter Andre is visiting Brierley Hill in November.

An Evening with Peter Andre Unscripted comes to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Thursday, November 15 at 8pm. The two-hour show is a live interview with the 45-year-old star, hosted by his manager Claire Powell, and questions will be taken from the audience.

Tickets cost £25 and there are also special meet-and-greet and photograph packages available at £50 and £90. They are available from the civic hall box office on (01384) 573381.

It has also been confirmed that Peter Andre will play Teen Angel when the latest touring revival of Grease comes to Birmingham Hippodrome in August 2019.

Tchaikovsky night

STOURBRIDGE Chamber Orchestra will perform music by Tchaikovsky, conducted by Keith Horsfall, at Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley, next Saturday, September 29 at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 on the door.

Drunken yob crashed car into bridge

Ashley Jones – jailed

A YOB was swigging from a can of beer before smashing into a bridge with four children in the back of his car while trying to scare his partner by speeding.

Ashley Jones was annoyed after his partner accidentally dropped a plate during a meal at a pub. So he bundled everyone into the car and sped off while drinking from a can of strong beer, travelling at twice the speed limit.

The 29-year-old, who was more than double the drink-drive limit, pulled on the handbrake as the Renault Clio headed towards a bridge on Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley, on August 2, crashing the vehicle.

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "He was driving at speeds up to 60mph in a 30 zone and his partner grabbed the can and threw it out of the window, which made him even more annoyed. He deliberately pulled on the handbrake, lost control and and went head-on into the bridge parapet."

His partner suffered a fractured pelvis and one of the children needed stitches in a cut to the head.

Mrs Ruck said: "He deliberately drove fast showing complete disregard for the safety of not only other road users but his own children."

He was arrested after a short chase and was found to have 98 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35. Mr Exdol Mitchell, defending, conceded: "He does have a problem with alcohol and had voluntarily sought help two months before the crash."

Jones, of Lodgefield Road, Halesowen, who had been banned from driving for 20 months last December, admitted drink-driving, causing serious injury by dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance. He was sent to prison for two years, disqualified from driving for five years on release and had his car seized.

'Rambo' thug is jailed for making knife threats

A THUG who twice threatened people with a knife, before strolling down a Black Country road with the weapon shouting 'Rambo', has been locked up for 20 months.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Dudley yob Alan Joyce first threatened a man he had argued with at the White Swan pub in Baptist End Road, Netherton, on the afternoon of May 6.

Around four hours later he knocked at the door of a woman he claimed owed him money in Cole Street, Netherton, but she was not at home. Instead, he turned on Paul De Groot who had brought his family to visit a relative in the same road.

The 44-year-old followed the visitors, who did not know him, to the address and pulled out the knife when they would not let him in.

The defendant then got a stick out of his car and repeatedly hit Mr De Groot's vehicle with it, causing £2,000 damage, before leaving the scene.

Twenty-five minutes later he drove his Ford Focus into a fence at the Woodman pub in nearby Saltwells Road before getting out and heading down the street brandishing the knife and shouting 'Rambo'.

Drunk

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said the defendant was described as appearing to be 'very drunk' by anxious eye witnesses who alerted police. He was arrested by the officers.

"Any of these three separate incidents could have resulted in serious public disorder," said Mrs Ruck.

Miss Jabeen Akhtar, defending, said Joyce had 'no clear recollection' of what had happened on the day of the incidents.

She explained that he was 'not thinking straight' after taking a cocktail of strong medication mixed with illegal drugs and possibly also alcohol.

Joyce, of Field Road, Kates Hill, admitted three cases of possession of a knife and criminal damage.

Work starts on shoppers' car park

At the car park site, Councillor Karen Shakespeare, left, business owner Julie Aldis, and contractor Mike Stokes

BUSINESSES in Pensnett are in line for a boost after work started on a new car park for shoppers – months after year-long roadworks were completed in the area.

Work to carry out £6.3 million worth of road improvements in High Street, Pensnett, was completed in July, and now Dudley Council has started work on a new car park in Bradley Street. It will provide an extra 16 spaces.

New signals in the area aim to ease traffic congestion and aim, along with the car park, to boost to trade in Pensnett.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "This whole project has been about making life better for the residents, traders, shoppers and commuters along the High Street.

"I know it has been a very difficult time for the business owners during the improvement work, but I hope this new car park will be a welcome addition and be seen as a further commitment from the council to get the very best for the area."

Julia Aldis, who owns Warm Welcome fire places just off High Street, said: "The improvement work has been difficult at times but I really think that now we are starting to see the benefits."

Work on the new car park is expected to finish in October and will also include a height barrier to restrict access for shoppers only.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police investigate suspicious van

POLICE were on patrol outside two schools in Sedgley following reports of a man in a black van acting suspiciously.

The alarm was raised near High Arcal and Dormston Schools last Thursday. Officers attended both schools on Friday to ease parents' concerns and an appeal for information has now been launched by police.

Dudley North Police said: "Officers from Sedgley police have been conducting foot patrols at Dormston and High Arcal schools after reports of a suspicious male in a black van. If you see anything suspicious call 101 or 999 in an emergency."

Rod's going to rock Molineux

ROCK superstar Sir Rod Stewart is to play Molineux next summer – the first major concert at the football ground since Bon Jovi in 2003.

Around 25,000 will attend the show on Saturday, June 8, as the 73-year-old rock legend performs as part of his Blood Red Roses tour. Ticket prices will range from £55 to £125 for a front row seat.

Tickets go on general sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am via Ticketmaster. Wolves season ticket holders will be offered the chance to pre-order them from 9am today.

PCC Jamieson is set to stand down

POLICE and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has announced he is unlikely to run for office again at the end of his current term.

The Labour West Midlands PCC, first elected to the role in August 2014, said there was a 'near to zero' chance of him standing as a candidate at the next scheduled election in 2020.

The role is in line to be scrapped by then under Government plans to combine its duties with those of the West Midlands Mayor – although no agreement has yet been reached.

Society show Flare by staging Rattigan play

WORDSLEY Amateur Dramatic Society return to the stage next month with a play set in the Second World War.

The society is performing Terence Rattigan's 1941 drama Flare Path, which was made into a film and was recently revived in the West End. There will be performances from October 10 to 13 at 7.30pm in Crestwood School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford. Tickets are £8, call (01384) 353662.

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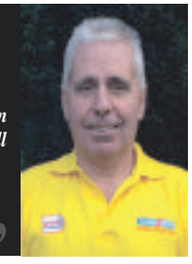

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Miss title wasn't a hit with Siobhan

A COUPLE of weeks ago this column recalled the rather wearisome comedian whose act involved masquerading as the Mayor of Stafford and then offending people with stupid comments on Twitter.

Well I'm now wondering if there is actually more than one of them. Because it seems hard to believe that Siobhan O'Dwyer, who vented her spleen on social media after being addressed by an air hostess as 'Miss' rather than 'Dr O'Dwyer' can be anything other than a windup.

"I didn't spend eight years at university to be called Miss," she hollered indignantly.

Talk about a chip on the shoulder. It's a wonder the plane was able to take off with that much ego on board. On Ryan Air they would have added a baggage charge for it.

"It's not about the title," she elaborated. "It's about the fact that this wouldn't have happened if I was a man."

Oh, gerrover yerself, love. Of course it would. Because many organisations – this one included – have a policy of restricting the honorific 'Dr' to medics and clerics. If you save lives, we call you doctor. If you read lots of books, you're Mr, Mrs or Miss. It's not that big a deal.

And a quick glance at Siobhan's Twitter feed shows she hasn't performed much open-heart surgery lately. Rather, she appears to spend more time on the picket line. She looks one very angry young lady.

It transpires her doctorate is in philosophy, and she earns a crust by teaching philosophy to others at Exeter University. Presumably producing another generation of philosophy lecturers, a bit like one of those pyramid-selling schemes.

Still at least she has a job, unlike anarchist campaigner Ian Bone. He hit the headlines recently for heckling the small children of Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg, telling them "Your Daddy is a horrible person. Lots of people hate him."

Brave or what?

Anyway, Mr Bone, has proudly explained how he has never had a job since graduating from Swansea University in 1968 – unless you count publishing a pamphlet celebrating 'hospitalised coppers' – and has been on benefits ever since, carving out a comfortable living in a large detached house on the outskirts of Bristol.

Two questions: What sort of anarchist lives off state benefits? Aren't they supposed to be against government and all that? And secondly, did he get a gold watch from the dole office to mark his 50 years?

Is making misogyny a hate crime, just a step too far?

Brand of humour – Jo's sharp comment on men in midst of misogyny 'hate crime' debate

Not happy – Serena Williams, even before she saw an Aussie paper's widely-criticised cartoon

Chipping in with food for thought for Labour – memories of Mandy's mushy peas gaffe

Kicking out blokey banter on football

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I DON'T entirely understand how making misogyny – ie hatred of women – illegal is supposed to work, in the wake of calls by Labour MP Stella Creasey. I am one of those bizarre blokes who prefers female company and would rather natter with women than get drawn into a blokey debate about footie. But it is a fact that some men simply dislike women, just as some men dislike cats, soccer or speed humps. It is also true that some women dislike blokes, as expressed by Jo Brand in one of her classic quips: "The best way to a man's heart is through his hanky pocket with a bread knife." It seems curious that the law overlooks Jo's advice on knife murder but may soon crack down on "disrespectful" men who wolf-whistle at women. I dare say I should be sent for re-education.

AT a time when overworked police can't cope with real crimes, one force is criticised for inviting complaints about non-criminal incidents. Under the banner "Hate will not be tolerated in South Yorkshire," the local force is urging folk to report non-crime hate incidents, defined as events "which can include things like offensive or insulting comments, online, in person or in writing." The idea seems to be that non-criminal speech or writing might turn into hate crime. On the same basis, why not nick drivers at 27 or 28mph? They may not be breaking the speed limit now but they might in the future, right?

I WAS going to write a couple of lines about some of the public's angrier responses to the police tweet. Better not. It might constitute a non-criminal incident.

IN any case, thanks to predictive-spelling programs, your non-criminal words may not even be the ones you intended. Among the many responses to the South Yorkshire Police tweet was: "Amber Rudd is a crime against humidity."

THREE cheers for the Commission for Religious Education's plea for school RE lessons to include not only religions but atheism, secularism and humanism. At long last, RE teachers will be able to say: "Right, kids, I've given you all the guff from the curriculum on organised religion. Now, here's what most of us actually believe." In my limited experience, if you explain that it's perfectly fine, decent and respectable not to believe in a god, people breathe a sigh of relief.

I REFERRED recently to tithes – the one-tenth of your income demanded by the Church in olden times. A reader has a collection of 200-year-old receipts for rents and tithes from the landlord and the church, paid by tenant farmers. In some years the landlord reduced the rent because of 'the bad state of the markets' but as far as my reader can find: "There is never a penny knocked off by the church. Clearly the aristocracy showed more Christian charity than the church."

SOME folk are raging against the 'racist' cartoon showing Serena Williams throwing her tantrum. As they are fully entitled to do. Yet I wonder how many of them were defiantly chanting 'Je Suis Charlie' a couple of years ago in their support of the Charlie Hebdo magazine after the massacre at its Paris offices? Most people claim to cherish freedom of expression. What a lot of them mean is: "I believe in freedom of expression – but . . ."

SCIENTISTS in Switzerland have developed a new app which will tell you exactly where your lost golf ball is. It detects a signal from a tiny transmitter inside the ball. Very clever. However, it has one basic flaw. It can only find the golf ball where the ball actually is. A much older method involves dropping a spare ball through a hole in your pocket and down your trouser leg, so you can find the ball exactly where you want it to be.

IF we believe the Guardian, research shows that: "Labour has evolved from being the party of casseroles and bingo to the party of quinoa and student protests." Anyone remember New Labour and the mushy peas? It is a story, oft told and always denied. Labour's Peter Mandelson, on a 1997 campaign visit to a chip shop Oop North, allegedly pointed to the mushy peas and asked for "some of that guacamole." Labour is always boasting about its half-a-million members. I wonder how many of them could recognise mushy peas, mild ale or a whippet.

A WHIPPET, comrade? It's like a miniature Borzoi.

TALKING POINT

A role to play for TV drama producers

SOAP operas are not averse to tackling hard-hitting storylines, and two of the popular dramas have now resorted to highlighting problems that many don't know how to handle.

Yet often, such subjects – homelessness and mental health – are taboo and, certainly with the latter, there seems a certain stigma attached.

As viewers tend to identify with soap storylines and characters, it is hoped these issues can be brought into the open and, perhaps even tackled.

In Corrie, Sean Tully has found himself, literally, on the street. Apparently it was actor Antony Cotton's own idea to bring the issue to life. He knew someone who suddenly lost everything and ended up on the streets, so he himself could identify with the problem.

Help has now been found. But the tragic plight could happen to anyone at any time, and, for those in desperate need – and through no fault of their own – sympathy, and a solution must be found.

Hollyoaks, meanwhile, has launched a mental health storyline, with one of its characters being diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder. Programme makers say they have worked closely with the charity MIND to ensure this issue in sensitively portrayed. Again, this is an issue that sufferers require help with, and that others need to understand better.

The battle faced by Destiny's Child singer Michelle Williams with depression shows how anyone can be affected.

Other big names stars have their own troubles. Selena Gomez is an idol to millions but has revealed a battle with alcohol, revealing via the lyrics of a song she was no longer sober. And it's sad to see.

Internet trolls are believed to have had a hand in Gomez falling off the wagon. It is easy to say she should set a better example and 'stay strong' for her adorers, but sympathy is needed and one can only hope the singer gets the help she needs for her addiction. It is after all, an illness.

Ant McPartlin's issues are well-documented. And, while I would never condone his drink-driving actions, it is clear he is a troubled soul who needs medical help to sort out his problems.

While there is a support network in place and there are friends are family to turn to, not all sufferers can pay big money for treatment. Some may argue that their illnesses are of their own making.

But that is not always the case, and this is where society comes in, to have a better understanding of conditions, and offer more help to anyone afflicted.

MARK SHIPP

Council inconsistent over our heritage

I do not know whether I was amused or bewildered as I read page 2 and 3 of the September 6 edition of The Chronicle.

On page 3 was the article that Dudley Council refused permission to bulldoze the Bunch of Bluebells Pub in Netherton. Councillor Ian Kettle was quoted as having said that 'we have a history to be proud of in Dudley borough' and that the demolition of the pub 'would result in losing a piece of local heritage'.

On the opposite page we have a report that the council are in favour of the vandals of Dudley College demolishing the Hippodrome, an art deco building which is well known throughout Britain.

Where is the consistency in the two reports?

Could it be that if the council were behind the restoration of the building the Hippodrome would eventually compete with the variety of shows at the Town Hall?

Come on Mr Patrick Harley, you are a Conservative believing in competition.

Why not house the speedway at the rear of Hippodrome?

One of the reasons given for failure of restoration plans is that the building contains astbestos and the removal would be expensive. The same argument follows if the building is demolished.

If the college is given permission to build would the council insist that the deco facade be kept, as several iconic buildings in Birmingham are?

Will the college be allowed to build further structures that will not enhance Dudley in the future nor add to their historical significance?

KEITH BASTABLE
Quarry Bank

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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Brexit – losers are the dupes

DO the persistent bad losers demanding another Brexit referendum expect that, after the next General Election, if they don't like the new Government and its policies they will be given another vote?

This is the classic EU concept of democracy – 'You have voted the 'wrong' way, we will make you vote again and again until you give us the answer we want'.

The EU stands to lose much more by our leaving than we do, so of course their bureaucrats are trying to frighten us. I suggest that those who are currently preaching gloom and catastrophe are actually the brain-washed dupes, not those who voted to escape the dead hand of profligate bureaucracy.

The EU was a great idea but, like communism, it can only maintain the lavish lifestyle of its unelected leaders by suppressing opposition.

DAVID ANSCOMBE
Stourbridge

Cyclists must earn respect on the road

I am fed up with hearing cyclists constantly complaining about motorists (especially as they pay nothing to use the roads). All pedal bike riders should have a test and display something to be recognised; pay insurance (cars get damaged by bike riders and the motorist has to pay) and road tax; be properly attired.

Cyclists should only ride on the road within the Highway Code rules, not in pedestrian areas, nor should they cross roads using pedestrian crossings.

When cyclists adhere to all of these conditions will they then earn my respect?

DOUGLAS WINTERBORN
Brierley Hill

Number of problems on buses

I couldn't agree more with the comments of Peter Cole (Puzzled by bus number changes, Chronicle Letters, September 6).

It would be interesting to see what this cosmetic exercise has cost.

I went to catch the 205 last Monday only to find that not only had the number changed but it was now only ONCE AN HOUR.

I then went to catch an alternative and hadn't even noticed that number change as there are only two buses from this stop. It wasn't until I got into Brierley Hill to catch the old faithful 246 that I found out all the numbers had changed!

It wouldnt have been so bad if the old numbers had been put in brackets on the timetables.

What an utterly useless waste of time and money – unless by changing the numbers the buses will run more efficiently!

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Coach trip is last one led by Brian

Amblecote History

AFTER a summer of very successful outdoor meetings and lovely weather an added bonus, there was a guided tour of Wiltshire by coach, with Brian Draper MBE.

The visit took in Cirencester, the stones at Avebury and took in good views of the famous Wiltshire White horses and scenery over the Marlborough Downs and into the historic village of Laycock used for filming many period dramas.

Brian has carried out many talks and tours for the society and for many other groups throughout the Black Country and surrounding areas. This was one of his last tours, as he had a long battle with cancer, which he fought so bravely. The club was sorry to hear that Brian passed away on August 11. He will be sorely missed by many who knew him, as an outstanding speaker who will be remembered for the vast amount of knowledge and the pleasure gave to many, most of all the humour he put into his talks.

In July the Society enjoyed a full attendance for a tour of Himley Hall, in August a local guided walk led by Amblecote Historian Nick Baker around Amblecote Holy Trinity Churchyard, looking at the tombs of local industrialists and many interesting stories about to them.

Non-members always welcome at a small admission price of £3. Visit www.amblecote.org or the group's Facebook site.

Sum of £55 reaped at Harvest auction

Hotel talk holds visitors' attention

West Midlands Federation of Townswomen

CHAIRMAN Margaret Tew welcomed many guild members and guests to the West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's Annual Luncheon at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

Grace was given by the president of the Federation Enid Fennell and was followed by an excellent three-course meal followed by coffee and mints.

The loyal toast was given to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

There was a toast given to all guilds within the Federation with a response from a guild member on members' behalf.

The chairman introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Mr John Butterworth who gave a very interesting talk about a hotel that had had many famous celebrities pass through its doors.

Mr Butterworth held everyone's attention and answered many members' questions at the end of his talk.

The raffle was drawn with the prizes going to the three lucky winners.

The floral table decorations were won by the member who had the lucky ticket with a cross on the back of it.

The event was a huge success and enjoyed by all and thanks were given to the Federation Committee for all the hard work that had been put in to arrange this luncheon.

K'ford Ladies Social Circle

THE ladies met after the August break at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford to enjoy their Harvest Supper.

Chairman Shelia Evans welcomed members, including the secretary and visitors. Business matters were read, approved and signed.

Ann and Jean were thanked for organising a very enjoyable trip to Trentham Gardens, in July.

Sheila told members a Christmas lunch had been arranged at the The Beacon Centre for the Blind on Thursday December 13.

The ladies then enjoyed a lovely supper organised by the committee. When everyone had finished eating, Sheila and Linda auctioned gifts brought for the Harvest table. The money raised £55 to be donated to a charity at a later date.

Josie Smith thanked the committee for all their hard work providing a delightful meal.

The next meeting with be on October 4 at 7.45pm. The talk is entitled "No7 Cosmetics".

Hat-trick of croquet titles

Rotary Club of Cannock

THE Cannock club beat rivals Wellington to win the Rotary District 1210 croquet final for the third year in a row.

The final, a 4-2 win for Cannock, was played at Shrewsbury Croquet Club and forms part of the Rotary District summer sports programme.

The trophy was presented to the Cannock club sports officer and team captain Jacko Page by Simon Simms, District Sports officer. He thanked both teams for a very sporting and entertaining final and congratulated Cannock on their win.

After the game the teams joined together for a celebratory meal.

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Elle's Angels aim to help other families

GIVEN a near zero chance of surviving, Elle-Mae Davidson was only 16 when she suddenly collapsed of a brain haemorrhage in 2013.

Now a new charity aims to help families in the same position.

The former Wolverhampton Girls' High School student from Kingswinford had an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM), a tangle of abnormal and poorly-formed blood vessels on the brain, that her family and doctors knew nothing about.

When this burst five years ago, the teenager was in hospital for 23 hours with doctors saying she had an almost zero per cent chance of surviving. She is now 22 and is totally dependent on her family.

Treatments

Her family found that alternative treatments such as acupuncture, reflexology and hydrotherapy helped to improve Elle's quality of life.

Setting up charity Elle's Angels, registered four weeks ago, her mother Leah Davidson, with children Amira and Brad and husband Phil, aim to give West Midlands families affected by life-threatening accidents and illnesses a chance to have alternative treatments unavailable on the NHS.

Leah is helped by the 'angels', a group of friends and her cousin Amanda Sperling.

She said: "Ellie still understands things happening around her, so we want to make her life as positive as we can and this charity lets us do that. She would want us to take the opportunity to help other people. "

The charity is planning a ball at the Ramada Park Hall hotel in Wolverhampton.For detailsvisit the Elle's Angels Facebook page.

Elle-Mae with, front, sister Amira and mum Leah with, back, Angels Liz Hague, Annette Tilley, Louise Evans and Amanda Sperling

Songsters with star guest

A MALE voice choir from the Black Country are set to take the stage with a West End star in Dudley.

The Gentleman Songsters Male Voice Choir will join forces with singer and actress Ruthie Henshall at Dudley Town Hall next Saturday, September 29.

The choir will perform in the show Songsters on Broadway alongside Miss Henshall and two members of the West Bromwich Operatic Society, Tasheka Coe and Andrew Foggin.

The show will feature popular songs from such musicals as South Pacific, Les Miserables, Jersey Boys and West Side Story.

Miss Henshall made her West End debut in Cats and has gone on to star in Les Miserables, Crazy For You, Billy Elliot and Chicago.

Tickets to the event, which starts at 7.30pm, are priced at £18 and £20 and can be purchased by visiting the group's website www.gsmvc.org.uk or by calling 01746 763850.

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Pollution alert over Brum's clean air zone

THE controversial 'clean air zone' in Birmingham could lead to a drastic increase in pollution in the Black Country.

This is the fear of councillors as the Second City considers bringing in a low emmissions zone covering the area inside the city centre ring road in a bid to meet Government levels to limit pollution.

It means some motorists could be charged up to £100 for driving in the city – a move bosses hope will keep high pollution vehicles such as lorries out of central zone.

But the move has prompted concerns among council leaders in the Black Country, who fear the charge could mean more pollution in Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley and Wolverhampton, and have written to Birmingham Council over the issue.

Diverted

Roger Lawrence, the Labour leader of Wolverhampton Council and West Midlands Combined Authority transport lead, said: "We have serious concerns over how traffic that is diverted out of Birmingham city centre will be managed.

"What we don't want to see is a situation where buses and lorries that are diverted away from the clean air zone end up in the Black Country, worsening our air quality."

Birmingham Council say the city authority is under ministerial direction to establish a clean air zone by 2020. The Labour-run council has voted to submit a business case to the Government, although the scheme has met with widespread public opposition across Birmingham.

Local authorities are under orders to clamp down on pollution, which is a major cause of early deaths through lung infections. In the Black Country, Sandwell and Walsall in particular have suffered from poor air quality due to their proximity to the M6 and M5.

Malaika monkey business

You gotta smile – Dudley Zoo's popular chimp Malaika poses for a selfie after spotting her reflection in a keeper's phone

DUDLEY Zoo's chimp Malaika is proving something of a selfie queen as this cheeky camera phone shot shows.

She was caught checking herself out when she saw her reflection on her keeper's phone.

Senior Primate Keeper Jodie Dryden said: "It was hilarious when Malaika was checking herself out on the phone and smiling for the camera.

" Chimps are intelligent enough to know that the reflection looking back is themselves so will use a selfie screen or a mirror to check their teeth, or generally just be vain."

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School's derelict building becomes community hub

Pupils, parents, teachers and builders at the new community learning hub at Bromley Pensnett Primary School

A COMMUNITY learning hub at a Dudley primary school has re-opened after a £20,000 revamp.

The learning hub at Bromley Pensnett Primary School, has opened its doors after the derelict building had been out of use for five years.

It follows two weeks of work from a team of 10 who installed a new roof, repaired and redecorated, fitted new steps, replaced doors and flooring and installed a kitchen.

The project was completed by Smethwick-based property firm Novus. The primary school was chosen as part of the Novus 'Big Five' initiative to mark its fifth birthday, with £20,000 being spent on five local community projects across the UK.

Helen Tomlinson, headteacher at Bromley Pensnett Primary School, said: "The new Novus Learning Hub provides a centre for our community it was once lacking.

"We're grateful to Novus for taking the building out of its derelict state and refurbishing it to the highest standards. Everyone at the school is really happy with the finished project and we're looking forward to seeing the ongoing benefits it will bring to the community."

The new hub will look to offer a space where parents and carers can visit for support and advice. Facilities for health checks, weigh-in sessions, and breast feeding clinics will also be available.

Bromley Pensnett Primary School caters for 320 children.

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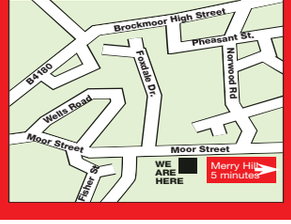

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Stars hooked on panto fun at the Hippodrome

Jimmy Osmond and Meera Syal in costume for this year's Birmingham Hippodrome pantomime, Peter Pan

BLACK Country writer and actress Meera Syal will be among the stars of the show when Birmingham Hippodrome stages the UK's biggest pantomime.

She joined fellow cast members Jimmy Osmond, Matt Slack and Jaymi Hensley, from Union J for the launch of Peter Pan. The show will run from December 18 until the end of January.

Meera, who grew up in Essington, near Wolverhampton, is best known for her roles in TV shows Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at No. 42, will take on the role of the Magical Mermaid in what will be her panto debut

Matt Slack, who will be appearing in his sixth successive pantomime at the Hippodrome, said "People always ask me how are we going to top the show from the previous year. Well, last year's was certainly great, with a brilliant cast and people like Beverley Knight.

"But this year's really is going to be exceptional. We've got a lot of surprises in store."

Jimmy Osmond, who had hits in the 1970s as the youngest of the superstar Osmond brothers, will play Captain Hook. He said: "I've done eight pantomimes and this will be the biggest."

"I've had some great times in the city over the years, playing concerts and appearing at the Hippodrome in Chicago and Grease. So it's wonderful to be back. It feels like home."

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Adrian Chiles and Suzi Perry will be introducing the group on the night

Tony Perry who managed the band

Suzi Perry, front, appeared as a dancer with band in their early days

Jim Merris on stage in the 30-year anniversary gig

Rhythm turns to blues in band's 'farewell gig'

JAMMING with Chuck Berry and Robert Plant, packing out the best Midlands music venues – and counting Suzi Perry as your biggest fan.

Not bad for a band of good friends preparing to take to the stage for what could be the final time in a career spanning four decades.

The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band will reunite to perform at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday, September 29.

The rhythm and blues band got a devoted following when they burst onto the music scene in the 80s. Playing at the venue for a battle of the bands contest in 1985 cemented their spot on the Midlands music scene.

TV appearances, playing at the Royal Albert Hall and gigs at the famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Birmingham beckoned over the years.

Wolverhampton broadcaster Suzi Perry often appeared as a dancer on stage in the group's early days. Her

MEMORY LANE

Report by Andrew Turton

father Tony managed the group. And fellow radio and television presenter Adrian Chiles, who was raised in nearby Hagley, also featured as bass player in early line-ups. The pair will return to introduce the band on stage when they return next month.

Achievement

Frontman and group founder Jim Merris, aged 54, form Quarry Bank, says bringing the group back together for the hometown gig will be an achievement in itself.

"One member of the group, Paul Roberts, is flying in from Australia which is brilliant," he said.

They celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2015 and have returned to the venue for a series of sell-out gigs. The group were formed after Jim was inspired by the style and success of the hit film The Blues Brothers which featured music from a host of soul, blues and jazz stars. Jim's love of jazz and boogie-woogie music came through his parents. He bought a Pontiac Parisienne car for £200 to have a big American-style car like those in the movies.

He secured a slot at The Broadway pub, in Norton, Stourbridge, and set about starting up a group featuring guitarist Iain Willetts, Dave Crowley, who was a talented pianist, Neil Sprayson and a young Adrian Chiles on bass. After just a handful of gigs, Adrian and Neil left for university.

Neil Bullock, now one of the country's top drummers, bass player Dave Green and Bob Pountney, who played trumpet, joined and a few months later so did trombone player Paul Roberts. Sue Clarke sang with the group. The Broadway, JBs in Dudley and now demolished Stewponey roadhouse pub at Stourton were among their venues.

After a couple of years they took on manager Tony Perry. He had co-run the PMA agency in Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, and been a director of the city's Lafayette club.

The Red Lemon's drummer Neil Bullock

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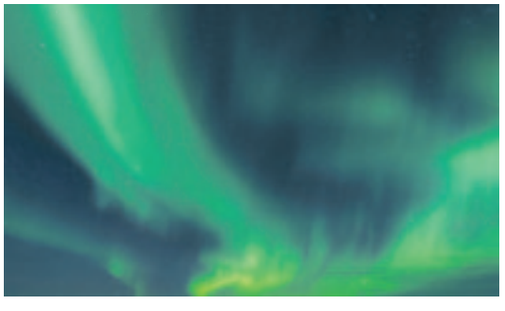

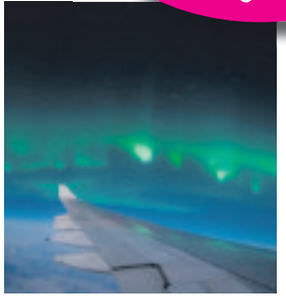

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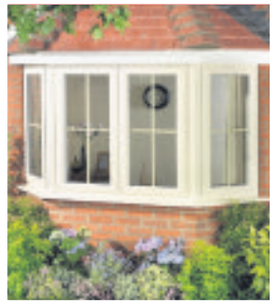
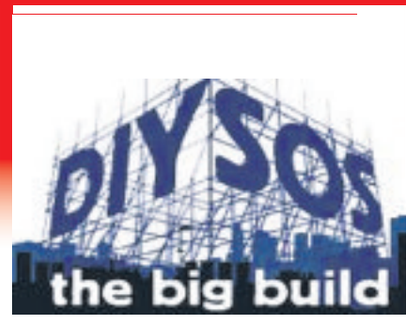

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Andrew pudding on the style at game of throws

THE title of World Black Pudding Throwing Champion has returned to the West Midlands for the second year running.

Super slinger Andrew Ferrier, from Wombourne, proudly brought back the trophy this year declaring: "I had no intention of winning – it just happened."

He takes the title from pal Nick Pennell, 45, and also from Wombourne, who took the crown in 2017 and was also competing this year alongside his pal at Ramsbottom in Lancashire.

Competitors in the quirky contest stand on a Golden Grid in the middle of town and underarm throw black puddings wrapped in women's tights towards Yorkshire Puddings placed on a plinth 20 feet above the ground.

People from as far afield as Australia, America and Turkey have competed in previous years and the odd spectacle attracts hundreds of onlookers every year.

Super slinger Andrew Ferrier celebrates with the trophy in Lancashire

What a shot... The World Black Pudding Throwing Championships 2018

Charity

Mr Ferrier, aged 44, said: "I didn't want all the limelight, but it's brilliant to bring the trophy back home to the West Midlands.

"I won £100 worth of prize money but I gave that away to a children's charity in Ramsbottom.

"The trophy is a cup, a chalice kind of thing, with 'Black Pudding Throwing Champion' on the plaque at the bottom.

"I've done this now for five years and this was the lucky year.

"We'll have to return the cup for next year and we've already booked our hotel for the competition."

Mr Ferrier, who toppled seven Yorkshire puddings to win the title, added: "You've got to get the black pudding up above the Yorkshire puddings and then get it to come back down."

The 44-year-old travelled to the contest with last year's victor, Mr Pennell.

Mr Ferrier, who works in house and garden maintenance, has been competing in the event with friends.

Mr Ferrier's brother, Craig, said: "Five years ago we had an argument over who did the best black pudding, I said it was in the West Midlands and another person said it was Ramsbottom because of the competition.

"Now we've returned it back to the Midlands again because my brother won it."

The annual competition started in the 1980s.

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Breweries and pubs top up new beer guide

NEARLY 100 more pubs and 17 fresh breweries across the West Midlands feature in the new Good Beer Guide.

Among the brewers in the 2019 guide, produced annually by the Campaign for Real Ale, is Wolverhampton's Punchline Brewery.

The team of husband-and-wife Richard and Lisa Shackleton – and Andy Bate, Louise Rowan and James Plant – started the brewery in Monmore Road last year.

Each of the brewery's beers is named after the punchline of a well-known joke.

Also getting in for the first time are Brewhouse & Kitchen, Lichfield, Dogbreath Brewery, Kinver, and Brewery at the Firs, Codsall.

The 17 new breweries bring the total number in the region to 139.

Listed

In total, the West Midlands region now has 387 pubs listed in the 46th edition of the Good Beer Guide.

New entries for the Stourbridge and Halesowen area are The Old Bank in Coventry Street, Stourbridge and micropub The Crafty Pint in Wassell Road, Halesowen, with The Swan, Long Lane, Halesowen re-entering.

In the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch area there are nine new and re-entries – Britannia, Blackheath; Black Horse and Malt Shovel, Dudley; Old Dispensary, Langley; Chapel House, Lower Gornal; The Fountain, Tipton; Britannia, Upper Gornal; Horse and Jockey, Wall Heath; and the Plough & Harrow, known locally as The Steps, in Kinver.

In the Wolverhampton branch area, two pubs have gained re-entries this year – The Horse and Jockey at Woodcross and famous Black Country jazz pub The Trumpet in High Street, Bilston.

Cat turns Foxy for Strictly

Amy Dowden and her celebrity partner Danny John-Jules have been busy learning the steps for their Strictly Come Dancing debut on Saturday

DUDLEY-BASED professional dancer Amy Dowden and her celebrity partner Danny John-Jules start their bid for the Strictly Come Dancing Glitterball trophy on Saturday by dancing the Foxtrot.

Red Dwarf and Death In Paradise actor Danny, who this week celebrated his 58th birthday, is being put through his paces by Amy after they were paired on the launch show earlier this month.

The actor, best known for playing The Cat in sci-fi comedy show Red Dwarf, is learning his debut routine as he prepares to take to the dance floor with Amy for the first time this weekend.

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Tina
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"This joyful, lungs-bursting show is simply the best."
- Daily Telegraph

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Nobody ever did storming, stropping, gyrating rock goddess like Tina Turner, officially one of the best-selling female artists in history, whose rasping power vocal, tempestuous personal life and sheer survival instinct were just begging to be turned into a rock opera.

Well now it has been, in a show written by Olivier award-winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd, and you can see it erupt onto the stage at London's Aldwych Theatre. With coach travel, hotel accommodation, free time in London and exclusive extras, this isn't just a great deal – it's...

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Auntie play is awfully big draw

Tickets have been selling fast for the stage adaptation of David Walliams' book Awful Auntie, which comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this month.

Demand has been so great that an extra performance has been arranged. The additional show at 3pm on September 30 follows eight other performances of the play, beginning on September 26.

The show is being presented by Birmingham Stage Company, the group behind the award-winning West End production of Walliams' Gangsta Granny.

Awful Auntie tells the story of Stella, who sets off to visit London with her parents, Lord and Lady Saxby, without realising her life is in danger. Waking up three months later, only her Aunt Alberta can tell Stella what has happened. But can she be trusted? Stella is soon caught up in the fight of her life!

Sales of David Walliams' Awful Auntie book have now reached over a million copies, making the former Little Britain comedian and Britain's Got Talent judge one of the country's best-selling children's authors.

His books have been translated into more than 50 languages, bringing worldwide sales to more than 17 million, and three of his books have won the National Children's Book Awards.

Tickets for Awful Auntie can be bought online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk or by calling 01902 429212.

Kylie is fit and fabulous at 50, bringing her show to Brum

Kylie's new Golden age

It's been a remarkable year for Kylie.

The pint-sized chanteuse celebrated her 50th birthday in style, sang at the Queen's birthday party at the Royal Albert Hall and released a stunning new album, Golden, which went to number one in the UK and Australia.

The Aussie star is back with a new arena tour including a concert at Birmingham's Genting Arena tomorrow night (Friday).

Golden was largely written in Nashville, Tennessee, where Kylie Minogue says she found new inspiration. She co-wrote each track, the first time she had done so since her Impossible Princess record of 1997.

The record followed the break-down of a recent relationship – though it was avowedly not a break-up record.

"The last thing I'd want is a breakup album," she says. "I was done with that. Through! Moved on! And I was so much happier to have moved on.

"It's about me and about where I find myself at this point in my life."

Kylie has embraced 50 in buoyant mood. She says: "On Golden, the line I had in my head was 'we're not young, we're not old, we're golden.' We adapted it for the song. I was often asked 'how does it feel to be a woman your age in this industry?" and I was just over it.

"For my own satisfaction, I wanted to be able to say that we just are who we are at any point in time."

Get Boogie Shoes on for Night Fever

Actor and dancer Richard Winsor, star of TV drama Casualty, will be stepping into John Travolta's dancing shoes when he takes on the role of Tony Manero in theatre mogul Bill Kenwright's new stage production of Saturday Night Fever.

The tour will call at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, September 25 to 29.

No doubt donning the iconic white suit, Winsor will be hitting the dancefloor in the story of a disco romeo who lives for the weekend.

The show is full of 70s hits from the all-time best-selling movie soundtrack including Boogie Shoes, Disco Inferno and Bee Gees hits Stayin' Alive, Tragedy, How Deep Is Your Love, Night Fever, More Than A Woman, Jive Talkin' and You Should Be Dancing.

Opposite Winsor, who is a former member of Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance company, will be Kate Parr as Stephanie Manero. Her stage credits include Follies at the National Theatre. There is a supporting cast with lots of West End experience between them.

Whilst paying homage to the movie, this new stage version promises more drama, more music and new choreography. It is directed and produced by Kenwright with choreography by Olivier Award-winning Bill Deamer. The stage adaptation is by Robert Stigwood with Bill Oakes.

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An exotic blend of flavours

Staff at the Balti Bazaar aim to serve up wonderful food that is rich and aromatic, cooked with an exotic blend of herbs and spices unique to their restaurant.

A spokesman said: "No other Indian restaurant in Stourbridge offers the exotic blend of flavours that Balti Bazaar chefs provide, and have been ranked officially by leading authorities such as the Good Food Guide, Good Restaurant Guide and British Curry Awards as the 'best place to dine in Stourbridge'.

"Our dedicated staff at Balti Bazaar aim to emulate this to the fullest, ensuring that each and every one of our customers has the finest Indian dining experience.

"We offer our services to anyone that has an interest in Indian food. Our Indian restaurant is perfect for anybody in the Stourbridge area, also including the areas of Hagley, Bromsgrove, Belbroughton, Halesowen, Old Hill, Cradley, Oldswinford, Dudley, Oldbury and Kidderminister etc, to order a delivery or to host a private function or just enjoy a meal of the finest food that we have to offer.

"The premises is air conditioned for extra comfort and on further inspection of the internal surroundings it is worth pointing how each table is perfectly set giving a true feeling of luxury and ambiance.

"We strive to build a sound relationship with all our valued customers, who look to us for consistently excellent quality, value and service. Our staff continue to be one of the best qualified and equipped workforces in the Midlands."

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Hoping for competition success

Having won numerous awards and competitions over the years, the Balti Dilshad has taken part in the Express & Star Indian Restaurant of the year for three years running.

The restaurant won last year and came second the year before, staff are hoping for more success this year.

The restaurant prides itself on quality food at competitive prices.

A spokesman added: "With a takeaway service available, you don't have to go far to experience the traditional cuisine with a free delivery service available within a four-mile radius and on orders over £9.50."

The Dilshad Balti restaurant has a full capacity of 140 and they cater for private functions as they have a separate room on offer. As the restaurant is not licensed, customers are welcome to bring their own alcohol.

Mr Miah is a very proud businessman and he has been running the Dilshad Balti for more than 30 years, seeing regular customer's children become customers themselves.

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AT YOUR LEISURE

She impresses us – Shania Twain

Shania's still the one after facing illness and divorce

Queen of country pop music Shania Twain is touring the UK for the first time in 13 years.

She will be in concert at Arena Birmingham on Monday, one of only six UK dates, bringing such hits as That Don't Impress Me Much, You're Still the One and Man! I Feel Like A Woman!

Her long absence from the music scene, following fourth album Up! in 2002 and a tour two years later, was partly due to illness, after contracting Lyme disease and requiring surgery on her vocal chords.

"I never thought I'd sing again," she says. "Lyme disease can be so much more devastating. It can go to your brain. I was too embarrassed to tell anybody that I couldn't sing."

She had also gone through a bitter divorce with producer-songwriter Robert 'Mutt' Lange, who had been her partner for 14 years.

The award-winning Canadian singer/songwriter has sold more than 100 million records, making her the best-selling female artist in country music history and among the best-selling artists of all time.

After a self-titled debut in 1993, her second record provided a breakthrough as The Woman in Me sold 20 million copies. Third album, Come On Over, in 1997 became the best-selling studio album of all-time by a female act in any genre, nearly 40 million copies. It produced singles You're Still the One, From This Moment On and Man! I Feel Like a Woman!, earning four Grammys.

Taking a walk on the wild side, Step By Step

He's been called the bravest – or craziest – man on TV

Simon Reeve, award-winning TV presenter, traveller and adventurer, has made documentaries, written books and travelled around the world several times. He presented the BBC television series Tropic of Cancer, Equator and Tropic of Capricorn, and more recently explored Australia, Greece, Turkey, Russia and Burma.

He has met and interviewed all kinds of people, from desert nomads to spies and terrorst sympathisers, from Imelda Marcos, widow of Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos, to Russian mystic Vissarion, who claims to be Jesus Christ reincarnated.

His career is all the more remarkable considering on leaving school in London he had to take a series of dead-end jobs and even considered suicide.

Simon will talk about his remarkable experiences during his first theatre tour, which goes alongside the publication of his inspiring memoir Step By Step.

Summing up his outlook, he says: "We can be held back by our fears and worries – and I wouldn't criticise anybody who was – but we have to take our chances because life is so short." An Audience With Simon Reeve sees the broadcaster share anecdotes from more than 15 years of his travels, at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday, at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn on October 18 and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on November 17.

Explorer Simon Reeve

American movie star is a real stand-up guy

American movie star and comedian Chris Tucker is back on tour of the UK for the first time since his UK debut in 2012, with a date at Arena Birmingham next Thursday, September 27. The 46-year-old from Atlanta is a star of the Rush Hour film series and 2012's Oscar-nominated Silver Linings Playbook.

Scotland's most popular new comedy export, Kevin Bridges, is coming back to the West Midlands as part of his biggest tour to date and has already sold out all of his Birmingham shows during a four-night stint at the city's Hippodrome theatre, which began last night (Wednesday).

Irish stand-up comedian (and presumably sit-down author) Jason Byrne has embarked on a huge nationwide tour with a brand-new show entitled, You Can Come In, But Don't Start Anything, which will reach Birmingham Town Hall on September 29.

Pale Waves – tide turns for the goth-pop group

Goth-pop quartet Pale Waves are playing their biggest headline shows to date this autumn, including a headline at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Tuesday.

The band have followed the success of recent singles Kiss and The Tide as they prove why they've become one of the hottest bands of 2018 with the release of their highly anticipated debut album, My Mind Makes Noises.

Released last week it features the singles There's A Honey, Television Romance and Kiss, plus new single Eighteen, which was premiered as Annie Mac's Hottest Record on BBC Radio 1.

The band formed when Heather Baron-Gracie and Ciara Doran met at university in Manchester in 2014. A few years before that, a childhood back injury had forced Heather to take time off high school, nearly derailing her education.

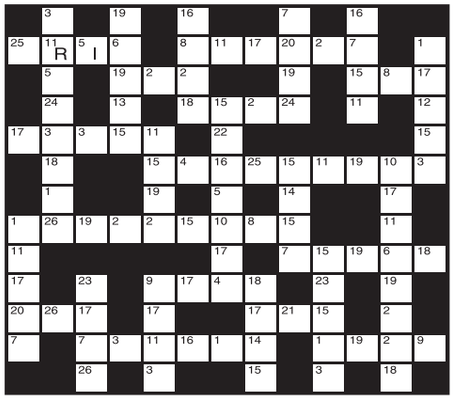
She says: "I've never clicked with anyone the way I did with Ciara. We're complete opposites: I'm a hothead, and she's very calm and collected. We balance each other out."

BRAIN GYM

No.498

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



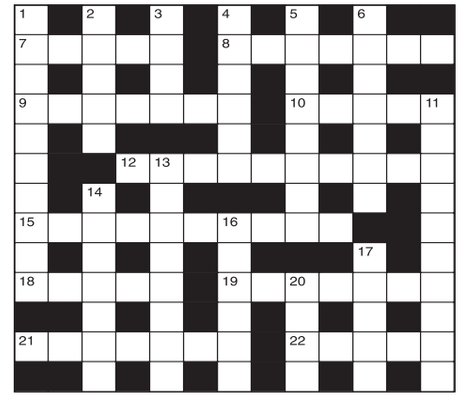
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 I	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11 R	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	A	Q	Y	F	I	U	X	H	M	C	Z	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	G	N	L	O	W	E	K	P	R	T	D	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Fruit of the melon variety (5)
8. Possible purse of plenty (7)
9. He escaped to become famous (7)
10. Different route further from the centre (5)
12. Not against change though it's the wrong condition for it (10)
15. Show little promise as a sculptor (5,5)
18. Loudly call out after a plea for silence (5)
19. Something a tanner will buy! (7)
21. Stops in crooked side streets (7)
22. A temple ornament? (5)

Down

1. They tried to extract gold from St. Michael's (10)
2. Affair of love in a rum setting (5)
3. It turns up after an opponent (4)
4. Water-bound (6)
5. One line future travellers may take (8)
6. Dock or rail cut reviewed (7)
11. Don't maintain a well-balanced pace? (3,4,3)
13. A trieste composition (8)
14. Brave child backed by the mother (7)
16. Stop doing wrong (6)
17. Put six on the vehicle for the clergyman (5)
20. Keep them about you for emergencies (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Fat (5)
8. Joy (7)
9. Realm (7)
10. Vagrant (5)
12. Detail (10)
15. Trifling offence (10)
18. Recover (5)
19. Laborious (7)
21. Straddling (7)
22. Vision (5)

Down

1. Accountant (10)
2. Agency (5)
3. Lean (4)
4. Allow (6)
5. Of ships (8)
6. Maim (7)
11. Waywardness (10)
13. Resolution (8)
14. Assistant (7)
16. Idols (6)
17. Strong (5)
20. Elan (4)

Sudoku

	2		6			4		
	1	3	7					5
		5		3			2	
9				8		6		
	5	1	4		2		9	
		7		9				8
				1	5			4
1	4				8	2	5	
		9			6		7	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	5	1	6	3	2	8	4	7
2	7	6	4	1	8	3	9	5
3	4	8	9	7	5	1	6	2
1	8	7	2	4	3	9	5	6
5	2	4	1	9	6	7	8	3
6	9	3	8	5	7	2	1	4
4	3	9	7	6	1	5	2	8
8	6	5	3	2	9	4	7	1
7	1	2	5	8	4	6	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Overseers; 8 Lee; 9 Reciprocate; 11 Rampage; 12 Piper; 13 Curare; 15 Ordain; 17 Limit; 18 Crackle; 20 Self-control; 22 Cue; 23 Stallions. Down: 2 Vie; 3 Sepia; 4 Evoked; 5 Sharper; 6 Sleepwalker; 7 Rearrange; 10 Compromised; 11 Recollect; 14 Rattles; 16 Acacia; 19 Annul; 21 Own. QUICK - Across: 1 Knowledge; 8 Run; 9 Approximate; 11 Precede; 12 Thong; 13 Shindy; 15 Script; 17 Phial; 18 Brevity; 20 Antecedence; 22 Eat; 23 Desperate. Down: 2 Nip; 3 Loose; 4 Driver; 5 Elastic; 6 Premonition; 7 Unsightly; 10 Precipitate; 11 Postponed; 14 Dilated; 16 Abacus; 19 Endue; 21 Cut.

Quiz

1. How is a leucocyte more commonly known?
2. What is the name of the Russian space station visited by the shuttle Atlantis?
3. In which city was the first underground train line opened, in 1863?
4. What do the letters UHF stand for?
5. Which Virginian star lost his fight against cancer in 1995?
6. What is a jerboa?
7. What nationality was the pioneering sixteenth-century astronomer Tycho Brahe?
8. Which physician coined the word vaccination?
9. Which tribe did Crazy Horse lead?
10. Which aircraft safety device was invented by British engineer James Martin?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Eland; 2 Kramer vs Kramer; 3 Succubus; 4 Seaweeds; 5 Walter de la Mare; 6 Czechoslovakia; 7 Whale; 8 Lazarus; 9 NATO; 10 George IV.

Niner: CREDULITY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5727 gives a song,
578896 gives a poem,
34319 gives a saying.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 20, 2018

SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 22

CHOICE

Claudia Winkleman (left)

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.15pm)

The pro-celebrity dance contest makes its return to screens, two weeks after a special introductory programme announced this year's partnerships. Now though, the competition is ready to get under way, as head judge Shirley Ballas and her fellow panellists Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell get their first taste of what the dancing duos are capable of achieving. None of the 15 stars taking to the dance floor this weekend will be exiting this week, though. Instead, their scores will carry over to next weekend, when viewers get a chance to vote for their favourite couples.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Champions League of Darts. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Strictly Come Dancing version of the general knowledge quiz, with contestants Katya Jones, Joe McFadden, Debbie McGee, Giovanni Pernice, Ore Oduba, Oti Mabuse, Lesley Joseph and AJ Pritchard.

6.15 Strictly Come Dancing. The pro-celebrity contest makes its return to screens, two weeks after a special introductory programme announced this year's partnerships. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present.

8.35 Casualty. Dylan is forced to treat Ciara when she comes into the hospital suffering from abdominal pains. After looking at her symptoms he orders a pregnancy test, which comes back positive. Meanwhile, Iain secures Base a place in rehab, but on the way there, Base disappears, and Duffy makes doctor's appointment and gets Robyn to cover her.

9.25 Killing Eve. In the aftermath of her recent assignment, Villanelle is ordered to take a break, but she goes ahead with her next mission regardless. Meanwhile, after being fired by Frank for the debacle at the hospital, Eve is stunned to be presented with her dream opportunity – a secret, off-the-books department, a mission she is truly invested in, and the chance to build and lead her own team. Her target is Villanelle. Spy thriller, adapted for television by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and starring Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Cardiff City v Manchester City at the Cardiff City Stadium and Liverpool v Southampton at Anfield.

12.00 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game - Cleveland Browns v New York Jets at FirstEnergy Stadium. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Dengineers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Natural World: Tiger Island. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Scrappers – Back in the Yard. (R) **3.30** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.30** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.00** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.30** Ancient Invisible Cities. (R)

6.30 PDC Champions League of Darts. Caroline Barker presents coverage of four further group-stage matches from Brighton Centre, as the third staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. This session will see the four winners from this afternoon's clashes face each other, while the four losers from those contests will be involved in the other games.

10.30 Performance Live: Hofesh Shechter's Clowns. Ore Oduba introduces the dance film, a macabre comedy of murder and desire, asking how far people will go in the name of entertainment. Directed, choreographed and composed by Hofesh Shechter, it combines bold, exhilarating and tribal movement by 10 dancers with a percussive, cinematic score.

11.00 Film: Dancer. (2016) Premiere. Documentary about Ukrainian dancer Sergei Polunin, who took the dance world by storm and became the Royal Ballet's youngest ever principal before walking away aged 22.

12.20 Film: The Skin I Live In. (2011) A plastic surgeon creates synthetic human skin that is indistinguishable from the real thing. However, nobody knows that he has accomplished this goal by experimenting on a woman he keeps as a hostage in his home – until his maid's criminal son invades the house, and secrets begin coming to light. Pedro Almodovar's thriller, starring Antonio Banderas and Elena Anaya. In Spanish. **2.10** Trust. As word of his grandson's kidnapping spreads, J Paul Getty sends his trusted fixer Fletcher Chace to Rome to investigate the disappearance. Crime drama, starring Donald Sutherland. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Island Strait. (R) **12.10** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **2.30** WOS Wrestling. **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. (2004) The teenage wizard is alarmed to learn a dangerous fugitive sorcerer is searching for him. Meanwhile, a new teacher at Hogwarts helps the bespectacled youngster to protect himself from the school's soul-sucking security guards. The third in the fantasy adventure series, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, David Thewlis, Michael Gambon, Robbie Coltrane and Alan Rickman.

8.35 The X Factor. The SSE Arena Wembley is the location as the audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. Judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell decide who goes through to the Six Chair Challenge, before the competition really heats up later in the year with the live shows.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Brit award-winning singer†Lily Allen, ahead of the release of her new autobiography, and actor Riz Ahmed, star of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, Venom and The Night Of. Plus, Jonas Blue, who has platinum singles in more than 20 countries,†will be performing his smash hit Rise.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Van Helsing. (2004) A vampire slayer sets out to help a gypsy princess vanquish Count Dracula and his three brides once and for all. Gothic action adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.25 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.05** Frasier. (R) **9.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge explores more tales of Britain's rich maritime history, this time visiting the banks of the Clyde. In Glasgow, she finds evidence of a busy Iron Age waterway and an enormous wall built to channel the water, illustrating the complex relationship between the city and the river it was built upon. (R)

8.00 Egypt's Great Pyramid: The New Evidence. Documentary shedding light on a fresh discovery at the foot of Egypt's Great Pyramid, which may explain how the ancient Egyptians were capable of building such a vast structure without the aid of computers of complex machinery. At the base of the monument, archaeologists have uncovered a relic of Khufu, the pharaoh whose remains were interred in the Great Pyramid. What they found was a ceremonial boat, laid out in "flat-pack" form, which may prove to be the key in explaining the crucial role ships and water played in the pyramids' construction. (R)

9.00 Film: Gods of Egypt. (2016) Premiere. An ancient Egyptian god is driven into exile when his evil brother murders their father and seizes his throne. He enlists the aid of a human thief in restoring justice, and in return offers to help the mortal to bring his murdered lover back to life. Fantasy adventure, starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Brenton Thwaites, Gerard Butler and Chadwick Boseman.

11.25 Film: 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi. (2016) Fact-based action thriller, with John Krasinski.

2.00 Experimental. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.00** Vet on the Hill. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.25** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.25** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **5.25** Rich House, Poor House. (R)

6.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The debt collectors take action to serve a writ issued for the organiser of a music festival. (R)

7.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents Max and Steve in East London try to recover over £7,000 owed by a restaurant owner for an unpaid gas bill, while officers Gareth and Mitch in Gloucestershire seek just under £3,000 from the owner of a car wash. Stewart and Vic are in Manchester trying to recover nearly £5,000 owed by a blinds and shutters supplier to a dissatisfied customer. (R)

8.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Officers Gary and Cona chase up nearly £50,000 in unpaid rent, and Del and Max bid to collect more than £10,000 from a beauty salon for a disgruntled former employee. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 How the Victorians Built Britain. Michael Buerk looks at the creation of mass manufacturing, which meant that goods could be produced at a rate that had never been seen before. In Manchester, he learns how engineer George Stephenson created the first intercity railway, so that cotton could be transported quickly and cheaply from Liverpool docks to Manchester's mills. Michael also discovers how the sewing machine – newly created in 1851 – created the rag trade, and visits what was probably the first shopping mall in the UK, the Burlington Arcade in London. Last in the series.

10.00 The Forth Rail Bridge: Britain's Greatest Bridges. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood. (R)

11.05 Jack the Ripper: Missing Evidence. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.50** Timeshift: Gagging for It – TV's Hunger for Radio Comedy **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.20** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **1.20** Secrets of Our Living Planet **2.20** Big Cats **3.20** Close

ITV2

12.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **12.55 Film:** Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00 Film:** Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) **2.40** The X Factor **3.45 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **5.35 Film:** Battleship (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** Battleship (2012) **8.00 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

3.05 Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.00 Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ayr **4.15** World Cup Top Goalscorers **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.55 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **9.00 Film:** Rocky IV (1985) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Rocky IV (1985) **11.05 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.00** Better Late Than Never **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.05 The Goldbergs **1.05** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** The Great British Bake Off **4.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **5.15** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.30** Rude Tube **2.30** Gogglebox **3.25** Celebs Go Dating **4.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Film4

11.00 The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **1.00** Capture the Flag (2015) **2.50** Megamind (2010) **4.45** Cocoon (1985) **7.00** X-Men (2000) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **11.45** The Transporter (2002) **1.30** Crimson Peak (2015) **3.55** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 23

CHOICE

Richard Madden

Bodyguard (BBC1, 9pm)
David makes a major breakthrough as he goes in search of the truth behind the attack on Julia. However, his interference in the case has placed him in mortal danger, and he comes to realise that there is no one left who believes his story. With time rapidly running out, he faces a battle to prove his innocence in the face of mounting evidence against him. Jed Mercurio's six-part political thriller comes to a conclusion with an extended final episode. Starring Richard Madden, Gina McKee and Nina Toussaint-White. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.30** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Hold the Sunset. (R) **1.45** Hold the Sunset. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present coverage of the 2018 One Man and His Dog contest from the village of Llansteffan, south Wales, featuring teams from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, each comprised of a veteran shepherd and a child in training. Anita also takes a trip on a ferry across the Tywi estuary and discovers how cockles are one of the area's richest natural resources. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce visits the Parliament Buildings at Stormont Estate in Belfast, which has played a huge role in Northern Ireland's political history. An unloved muffin dish holds a surprise and Justin Croft spots an unread copy of Ulysses by James Joyce. John Foster delves underground into Belfast's 18th-century water system with an old wooden water pipe, while Adam Schoon meets a man with a phenomenal George Best collection.

9.00 Bodyguard. David has made a major breakthrough in his investigation, but his search for the truth has placed him in danger and he faces a fight to prove his innocence. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News.

10.35 Regional Programme.

10.45 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the day's two Premier League fixtures – West Ham United v Chelsea at the London Stadium and Arsenal v Everton at the Emirates Stadium.

11.45 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.25 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** PDC Champions League of Darts. Coverage of the concluding group-stage matches from Brighton Centre, as the third staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. **4.30** World Equestrian Games. **5.30** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)

6.30 PDC Champions League of Darts. Caroline Barker presents coverage of the semi-finals and final from Brighton Centre, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. These matches will take place over the best of 21 legs, as the winner of the third staging of this tournament is set to be decided.

10.00 Mock the Week. Host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis are joined by guests Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Kerry Godliman, Nish Kumar and Rachel Parris. (R)

10.30 No Activity. Stokes has had to go back to the station for a chat about the shooting incident, so Hendy is joined by an American detective. Carol shares romantic reminiscences with April.

10.55 No Activity. After weeks of surveillance, the drugs bust finally gets underway. However, Hendy is frustrated that he and Stokes are too far from the action. Last in the series.

11.20 The Mighty Redcar. Netball prodigy Safy has been awarded a partial scholarship – but her mum still needs to find some of the money. Bean and Tom face a big decision when a job offer comes their way. (R)

12.05 American Justice. When he was 12 years old, Sharron Townsend was arrested for shooting a homeless man in the head. Now aged 14, he is facing justice. As this edition reveals, in Florida, children can be transferred to adult courts at the discretion of the State Attorney, so there is no upper limit on Sharron's sentence. Cameras also follow Jeremiah Hill, who shot a man during a gun trade when he was 13 years old. Now the justice system must decide how best to protect society. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Cannonball. (R) **10.20** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.20** WOS Wrestling. (R) **12.20** The X Factor. (R) **1.35** ITV News; Weather. **1.45** £10k Holiday Home. (R) **2.15** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **2.45** Catchphrase. (R) **3.30** Tenable. (R) **4.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.30** The Chase. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 5 Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which two siblings and a team of firemen compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor. Viewers can play along using the series app.

8.00 The X Factor. The audition rounds continue in the talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, with judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell deciding who goes through.

9.00 Vanity Fair. The battle of Waterloo gets underway, with George fighting in the thick of it. Amelia fears for her husband's life, while Jos is far more worried about himself, despite being miles from the front line. Becky sees an opportunity to make a profit from the chaos of war by selling Rawdon's horses – knowing that the cowardly Jos will pay her anything for a way to escape.

10.05 The Imitation Game. Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Luke Kempner and Kate Robbins performing a spoof of Downton Abbey and finding a date for Kim Woodburn.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure. Joanna Lumley follows the Silk Road from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, travelling across the post-Soviet states of Georgia and Azerbaijan. (R)

12.05 Strangers. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motorsport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25 Film:** ParaNorman. (2012) **3.20** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Cruises from Hell: Caught on Camera. A cautionary roll-call of nautical nightmares demonstrating what can happen when people venture out on water. From vast cruise ships and ferries pounded by extraordinary weather, to near-death experiences on board vessels that catch fire and sink, the documentary reveals incredible moments, as told by the survivors, while psychologists discuss the seaborne anxieties people could experience on vessels ranging from the largest ships to small canoes. (R)

8.00 Battle of Britain: Model Squadron. The modellers reach Battle of Britain Day – 15 September 1940, when the RAF threw everything at the massed squadrons of Luftwaffe that were trying to attack London. It was on this day that Douglas Bader's controversial tactic, the Big Wing, was successfully deployed as five squadrons flew together in tight formation. The RAF modellers must try to bring to life a model Big Wing, getting all of their planes in the sky at once and flying in formation before their final dogfight with the model Luftwaffe. Last in the series.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. The castaways efforts to catch fish have yielded no results over the first 10 days on the island, so Montana Brown and Anthony Ogogo change tactics by going hunting for meat.

10.00 The Circle. Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest to win up to £50,000.

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

12.00 Film: Queen and Country. (2014) **2.05** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **2.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **3.25** Grand Designs Australia. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.30** Rusty Rivets. **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Floogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.55** Friends. (R) **12.25** Friends. (R) **12.55** Friends. (R) **1.25** Friends. (R) **1.55** Friends. (R) **2.25** Friends. (R) **2.55** Friends. (R) **3.25** Friends. (R) **3.55** Friends. (R) **4.20** Friends. (R) **4.50 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. **5.50** Access. **5.55 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) Concluded.

6.30 Film: King Kong. (2005) Maverick film-maker Carl Denham and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady, Ann Darrow. As the crew makes its way through the teeming jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody and Andy Serkis, in a dual role as the ship's cook and motion-captured creature. Edited for language, violence and tone.

7.30 5 News Update.

7.35 Film: King Kong. (2005) Concluded.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

11.30 20 Moments That Rocked Britain. Documentary looking back at major news events from the past 40 years that made a lasting impression on the British public. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** HMS Victory: Nelson's Great Warship. (R) **4.00** Tribal Teens. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Leeds International Piano Competition 2018 **8.30** What Do Artists Do All Day? **9.00** James May's Cars of the People **10.00** Roman Britain: A Timewatch Guide **11.00** Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track **12.00** The Last Explorers **1.00** Treasures of Ancient Greece **2.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **3.00** James May's Cars of the People **4.00** Close

ITV2
1.05 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.55** The X Factor **4.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.00 Film:** The LEGO Movie (2014) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** The LEGO Movie (2014) **8.00 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.10** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad! **12.35** The Cleveland Show **1.05** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds **2.25** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.55 Film: Columbo Goes to the Guillotine (1989) **4.50** Foyle's War **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.05** A Touch of Frost **2.55** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Judge Judy

ITV4
1.50 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **3.40 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Where Eagles Dare (1968) **6.50 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Tobruk (1967) **9.00 Film:** Rocky V (1990) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Rocky V (1990) **11.10 Film:** Source Code (2011) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Source Code (2011) **1.00** The Protectors **1.35** Minder **2.35** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.15 The Goldbergs **1.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.20** Young Sheldon **3.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.50 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** Krypton **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Tattoo Fixers: Extreme **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.15** Krypton

Film4
1.00 Stuart Little 2 (2002) **2.35** The House of Magic (2013) **4.20** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **6.40** Suffragette (2015) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) **11.20** The Sweeney (2012) **1.35** No (2012) **4.00** Close

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 20, 2018

Vauxhall targets family car market

By John Griffiths

While sports utility vehicles are flavour of the month, Vauxhall (which already has three such models) is now setting its sights on the real family car market.

Its new Combo Life may not be the prettiest new car out there, but it's hard to think of one which is more versatile and practical.

It will be easily recognisable as a member of the family of enduringly popular cars from Vauxhall's new owners, the PSA Group, including the Citroen Berlingo Multispace and the Peugeot Partner.

With prices from £19,610, the new Vauxhall comes in two sizes – standard and long, or XL wheelbase – and both are available as either five or, for the first time seven-seaters.

New more efficient engines, new technology and the cargo capacity of a small van make the Combo Life an impressively versatile machine.

It hasn't been built on a van platform – in fact it's a brand new platform built as a car, which will form the underpinnings of other new models across the PSA group – and this is reflected in its ride comfort.

The cabin has room for five or seven adults in comfort with generous head and leg room, with almost 600 litres of boot space – or 2,126 litres with all three of the individual second row seats folded down. The larger XL's capacity ranges from 855 to 2,695 litres and in both there are no less than 28 individual storage compartments of various shapes and sizes around the cabin.

Rear seats are easily accessed by large folding doors on both sides.

The new Vauxhall Combo Life comes in two sizes – standard and long wheelbase – and both are available as five or seven-seaters

Like the fashionable demand for SUVs, the market for cars like the Combo Life is growing throughout Europe.

Customers include small businesses who want a workhorse during the week and to take the family out at weekends, those who need to take a wheelchair or mobility scooter with them, families who want to take bikes or other travel equipment with them, or in the case of the Combo families carrying up to five children, a dog and luggage.

The three individual seats in the second row fold flat, and in the case of the seven-seater (which costs £700 over the equivalent standard model) the two seats in the third row are removable.

Vauxhall expects petrol to be the most popular choice for buyers, with a new 1.2 litre turning out 110bhp, with a turbocharger boosting torque to 205Nm barely above tickover, for smooth and linear acceleration. Its official fuel economy figure is 51.4mpg with a CO emissions rating of 125g/km.

A more powerful, 130PS version will be available in the new year. The diesel engine is a new 1.5 litre unit which will be introduced across the group's range, claimed to be learner and greener than its 1.6 predecessor. It is also available in 110 or 130PS versions – the smaller engine being the economy king with an average of 67.3mpg and a low 111g/km of CO2 but the 130Ps version is only a couple of mpg behind.

As well as using AdBlue, the new diesel incorporates a particulate filter and the latest technology to drastically cut harmful NOx emissions to levels well below current European standards. A new and more efficient eight-speed automatic transmission will be available with the top-powered diesel.

There isn't an all-wheel drive version but an option is the electronic Intelligrip system with normal, snow, mud and sand settings which controls torque to individual front wheels to maximise traction and stability.

The 'infotainment' system is important for a family vehicle and the Combo Life naturally has the latest version of the familiar Vauxhall system, with a central colour touchscreen for, among other functions, the 3D navigation system complete with live traffic updates and DAB radio. It is compatible with android and iPhones, with wireless charging an optional extra. Other standard features include rain sensitive wipers, auto-dipping lights, parking sensors, electrically adjustable and heated mirrors, air conditioning, autonomous energency braking, forward collision alert, lane keeping assist, cruise control and speed limiter were also standard in the 'Energy' spec model tested. A useful 'head up' display was a £355 extra.

Vauxhall isn't new to the world of compact MPVs with the successful Zafira and Meriva among its previous models, but the Combo life is a new direction, with its exceptional space and even more versatility – particularly with the longer wheelbase, seven seat alternative. The driving experience is quiet and refined, and all the latest technology (if not already fitted) is available as an option. It is big, comfortable and airy and rivals are beaten when it comes to the variety of tasks it can easily perform.

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Comfort for your precious pooch

Land Rover's new canine accessories

If you're one of the 26 per cent of dog-owning households in the UK, Land Rover's new range of accessories could be barking up your tree.

The British brand has launched a range of 'Pet Packs' to cater for the comfort of car owners' canine companions.

With Land Rover estimating that around half of its customers are dog owners, few brands would seem to suit the accessory packs so well. There are three on offer, and all will fit into any current Land Rover or Range Rover model.

Starting off the range is the Pet Transportation Pack, which costs from £360.37. It includes a foldable pet carrier, spill-resistant water bowl and a rubber mat to keep the boot floor clear of muddy paws.

Step up to the Pet Load Space Protection Pack for £482 and you'll gain a quilted load space liner, full-height luggage partition and that same water bowl. This pack is aimed at owners of larger dogs that won't fit into a pet crate.

Finally, the top-of-the-range Pet Care and Access Pack offers the luggage partition and quilted load liner, along with a pet access ramp to help elderly or infirm pooches access the boot. It will support up to 85kg as a result of its sturdy aluminium construction.

There's also a novel portable rinse system – essentially a 6.5-litre shower ideal for hosing off muddy paws on either dogs or humans. The Care and Access Pack costs from £887.56.

Finbar McFall, product marketing director for Land Rover, said: "Land Rover is all about enjoying the great outdoors and that goes hand-in-hand with dog ownership for many customers.

"Our customers told us that the comfort of their dogs on car journeys is crucial. They are part of the family and we recognise that. Our new Pet Packs will allow dogs to travel in real comfort and make journeys simpler and more relaxing for animals and at the same time protect the inside of owners' vehicles."

Audi heads for electric future with Formula E

In 2019, Audi will continue to compete with electric power in motorsport. At the same time, the manufacturer will prolong its factory-backed commitment in the popular DTM touring car series.

In the 2017/2018 season, Audi was the first German auto manufacturer on the Formula E grid. With four victories and eleven podiums after 12 races around the globe, Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler claimed the championship. The commitment in the fully electric series experiencing a boom with the participation of other manufacturers and partners forms the electric pillar of the brand's motorsport involvement.

Audi will also continue to be active in the DTM and gripping motorsport with internal combustion engines in the future. Next year, the DTM will see one of the most radical changes in its more than 30-year-history: In 2019, modern four-cylinder turbo engines will be introduced. In addition, the "Class One" being driven by the DTM and the Japanese Super GT will make its debut. The new regulations will make it possible to field the cars in both championships. It provides the basis for the joint races to be held for the first time starting in 2019 and increased internationalization. Following Mercedes-Benz' exit, a minimum of three brands being represented from 2020 on at the latest will be the prerequisite for Audi's continuing DTM commitment.

Even sharper and more refined: Lexus reimagines the RC luxury sports coupe

By Sharon Walters

A new version of the Lexus RC luxury sports coupe will make its global debut at the Paris Motor Show on October 2. Sales of the new model will commence from late this year.

Since its introduction in 2014, the RC has played a major role in promoting Lexus's commitment to delivering a more emotional quality in the driving experience provided by its vehicles, with its sporty appearance and versatile driving character. The fresh new RC retains all the virtues of the current model, but takes them to a higher level by adopting the latest evolution of Lexus's signature design language and sharpened driving dynamics inspired by the brand's flagship luxury coupe, the LC.

The exterior styling remains as sporty as the current model, but subtle changes in the details, inspired by Lexus LC design cues, imbue it with a new-found elegance. Inside the cabin, everything from the high-quality materials to the precise layout of controls and gauges was crafted to maximise driving pleasure.

Enhancements have been made to the RC's aerodynamics, tyres and suspension, and there are also improvements to engine response and steering feel, all of which reflect the "sharper and more refined" drive philosophy that was introduced by the LC. The new RC is more stable than ever under a wide variety of driving conditions. This provides a high level of driver confidence and a reassuringly flat ride quality, making the coupe an ideal grand tourer, whether you're negotiating a twisty mountain road or simply making a long-distance commute on the open highway.

Lexus designers sought to maintain the RC's dynamic coupe proportions, while adding a high level of elegance to the exterior. Key to achieving this was the addition of distinctive design elements, such as a new front bumper corner that flows down from the headlamps and a grille mesh pattern comprising shapes which gradually transform from top to bottom, creating an intriguing visual tension. The vertical arrangement of the extra-small triple LED headlamps and new L-shaped LED clearance lamps add to the car's more distinguished appearance.

Air ducts have been added to the corners of the rear bumper, resulting in better handling stability and enhanced overall driving response. A wider stance and lower centre of gravity reflect the car's high ability to maintain grip in different road conditions. The rear combination lamps now house more pronounced L-shaped lenses that are a new signature design feature for Lexus coupes.

Eleven different exterior colours will be available for the RC, including Naples Yellow and Sky Blue, shades which perfectly communicate the car's dynamic nature.

The new RC F Sport features the same grille mesh pattern on all Lexus F Sport models, together with many other custom exterior and interior items that are exclusive to this special grade. These include powerfully styled 19-inch alloy wheels, inspired by those used by the LS and LC luxury flagship sedan and coupe.

The exterior styling remains as sporty as the current model, but with subtle changes in the details

The new Lexus RC F Sport has powerfully styled 19-inch alloy wheels

Mind the gender gap! Men are paying more than women for car insurance

The greater number of driving offences committed by men is the reason for a gap in car insurance prices between genders, according to a study.

Insurance comparison website Confused.com found that on average women will pay £92 less for insurance cover than a man will on an equivalent policy, despite a 2012 EU directive making it illegal for companies to use a person's gender when calculating premiums.

The average quote for women was £701, while men saw an average of £793. These figures were based on six million insurance quotes carried out by the insurer over the summer of 2018.

Confused.com presented its research as a visual experiment on its website, breaking down the number and type of claims and motoring offences made by gender.

It found that of the 585,000 drivers taken to court for motoring offences during 2017, 79 per cent were male.

Thirty per cent of the offences were for speeding, comprising 23 per cent committed by men and just seven per cent by women.

There's a similar disparity with insurance claims. Men made 65 per cent of car insurance claims in 2017, and were almost twice as likely to be 'at fault' when making a claim. In addition, men's claims averaged a total cost of £3,271, compared with £3,121 for women – so not only do they claim more often but their claims are also more expensive.

Motorsport competitor and Confused.com motoring editor Amanda Stretton said: "As a female racing driver, I know women can hold their own when it comes to driving, and data suggests that they are in fact safer on the roads. This is reflected in the fact that they are paying almost £100 less for their car insurancepremiums.

"But regardless of who is paying more, men or women, car insurance is a cost that is unavoidable for all drivers."

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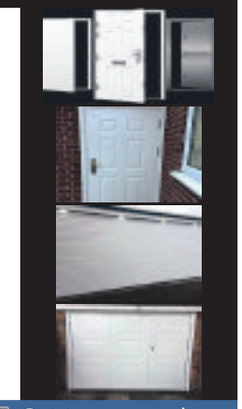

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what's on

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Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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8 Motoring

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ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

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9 Local Information

Public Notices

citizens advice Dudley Borough

Annual General Meeting

To be held on

Wednesday 10th October 2018

at 5.30 pm

The Council House

Priory Road

Dudley DY1 1HF

All are invited to attend

Welcome and refreshments will be available from 5.00pm

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

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10 Personals

General

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ClassifiedAds

Out on the water and stil time to smile for the camera

Members of Wolverhampton Canoe Club ready for one of their weekly sessions Pictures Alan Fogarasy

Hobby or competition, it is ideal for all ages

Instructor Marcin Kruczynski with his daughter Kornelia

Hidden gem provides an oar-some activity

IF you dream of relaxing strolls, connecting with nature or simply finding a new hobby to keep you active, the answer could be hiding right before your eyes.

Wolverhampton Canoe Club, in Oxley Moor Road, may have been founded back in 1956, but it remains one of the city's hidden gems.

With direct access to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, the friendly group welcomes people who want to take to the water for a whole host of reasons.

Whether you fancy taking a gentle paddle to relax and connect with nature, or you want to compete against others on courses designed to test – everyone is catered for.

The club is run by volunteers who are led by chairwoman Sharon Tarbuck, whose father was one of the club's founder members.

Friendly

And she believes the organisation provides the perfect environment for anyone looking to take up a new hobby.

"Wolverhampton Canoe Club is a family friendly club that is open to absolutely everyone," Sharon said.

"The Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal is beautiful and it's so relaxing when you are out there having a casual paddle, there is no hustle or bustle.

"Canoeing can be very therapeutic. It allows you to connect with wildlife and also keeps you fit. But we also have members who want to progress and who compete in races and slaloms.

"Whatever you want to do you can do it, everything is at your own pace but we are an encompassing club and there will be plenty of people happy to help."

While some people may be anxious about stepping into a canoe and onto the water, she says it doesn't take long to pick up the skills you need.

"Some people pick it up very quickly, others take a while," she said. "But we can go through it in baby steps.

"We run five-week courses and the first session is as simple as learning to sit in the boat. We then introduce you to strokes and other basic things.

"Our youngest member is seven-years-old, our oldest is 78-years-old and we recently had someone join us who is registered blind.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"For a lot of members, canoeing is about getting out there and exploring at a nice pace of life. Everyone can progress at their own rate."

"For a lot of members, canoeing is about getting out there and exploring at a nice pace of life. Everyone can progress at their own rate."

Open for four sessions a week, the club has junior and adult teams that have tasted success in regional competitions.

Members also hold their own annual race between Ironbridge and Bridgnorth on the River Severn.

The overall aim of the club, though, is for people to relax and enjoy themselves.

"I'd definitely recommend people take up canoeing," she added.

Safe

"It's very enjoyable and Wolverhampton is a club that is run by volunteers and is family friendly with parents bringing down their children and having a great time on the water.

"It's very safe. We like people to go off in groups of three. And membership wise we are doing very well, we have new people wanting to get involved on a weekly basis.

"For safety, you can't join until you have done a course. But after that you can paddle away.

"If anyone is interested in joining give us a call because there are so many benefits to joining."

For more information on Wolverhampton Canoe Club visit http://www.wolverhamptoncanoeclub.co.uk/ or call 07506903500.

Youngster Kai Drysdale

Young golfer misses school to land trophy

A 12-year-old golfer who hit her first ball as a three-year-old is preparing for a round of a lifetime after beat thousands of amateur golfers across England to win the Bridgestone Chase Your Dream Trophy.

Isabelle Badger, of Halesowen Golf Club, won the final of the competition, run by England Golf, at the pro-am of the Bridgestone Challenge at Luton Hoo, following a number of qualification stages.

She joined Spencer Burlingham from Essex and Martin Derrick from Sussex in the triumphant team, and they now go on to play in the pro-am of the Sky Sports British Masters at Walton Heath on October 10.

The youngster was meant to be back in the classroom at Pedmore High School, Stourbridge, for the first day of the new term, but was given special dispensation to play in the final of the Chase Your Dream Trophy – and now has a trophy to take back to the next school assembly.

The 13 handicapper, said: "It feels amazing! My own dream is to become a professional golfer one day."

'Missile' rides in as guest of Cycle Show

FORMER world champion Mark Cavendish MBE will be a guest at this year's Cycle Show at the NEC in Birmingham. The UK's national cycling showcase takes place from September 28 to 30.

The Manx Missile, who has 146 professional victories to his name including 48 Grand Tour wins and the 2011 World Championships, will appear alongside a star-studded list of riders.

The public will have a chance to quiz Cavendish in a Q&A on the final day. He will also share tales of his journey from riding BMX as a child to being at the top of his sport. He will sign autographs and pose for photos in the VIP Lounge.

Visitors can try and buy the latest 2019 products from the leading brands.

There will be two children's tracks, while the Extreme Bike Battle will provide a chance to see stunts from across the BMX and MTB world – with the UK's number one BMX ranked rider Lee Musselwhite on hand to demonstrate. For tickets, visit cycleshow.co.uk

Robinson the star as Brewood clinch T20

BEN Robinson starred with both bat and ball as Brewood were crowned Staffs Clubs T20 Knockout champions. He blasted 42 from 38 balls to rescue his team after they had been reduced to 38-6 batting first.

Brewood's total of 136-8 from their 20 overs eventually proved sufficient thanks chiefly to Robinson, who finished with figures of 5-21 from his four overs.

Despite skipper Sajid Nazir hitting 28 from 24 balls to open Whittington's reply, their innings eventually petered out to finish 111-9, some 25 runs short.

James Evans had earlier taken 3-21 as Whittington assumed early control at Vicarage Road. But things then took a dramatic turn once Robinson had arrived at the crease.

Aldridge clinched the second XI title with a 10-wicket win over Wednesbury. Wednesbury were limited to 108-8. Imran Bashir then hit an unbeaten 71 from 40 balls as Aldridge chased down the target in 11.4 overs.

Sport

Just oar-some! Club has paddle power

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Frustrated Glassboys draw blank

St Ives 0 Stourbridge 0

STOURBRIDGE had to settle for a share of the Southern Central spoils after drawing a blank at St Ives.

The visitors struggled to break down a stubborn home side who defended in depth for most of the match.

The Glassboys had a goal ruled out on 26 minutes. Robbie Thompson-Brown floated a free-kick to the far post where full-back Aaron Hayden headed home only for the effort to be disallowed for a foul on St Ives goalkeeper Sam Wilson.

The defining moment of the game arrived exactly on the hour-mark when Brad Birch forged his way into a packed St Ives goalmouth where he was bundled off the ball and the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

Thompson-Brown stepped up to take the kick, but it was spectacularly saved by Wilson, diving low to his right.

St Ives survived on 67 minutes when Wilson failed to gather a flick header from Callum Powell while under pressure from Kaiman Anderson, but the Stourbridge striker was unable to capitalise following a goal-saving block by St Ives central defender Sam Cartwright.

Stourbridge carved out one final chance with two minutes remaining. Birch crossed for Anderson, who headed into the path of Leon Broadhurst, but the long serving midfield man could only fire straight at a relieved Wilson.

Glassboys were visiting Alvechurch on Tuesday night and take on Leamington in the FA Cup second qualifying round on Saturday.

Visitors go out on a Limb to deprive Yeltz of three points

Halesowen Town 2 King's Lynn 2

HALESOWEN remain unbeaten at home but had to finally settle for a point after recovering from an early setback to take a second-half lead.

There were two goals in the first six minutes of an even first half. The Linnets made a perfect start to their first league game under caretaker managers Robbie Back and Neil Fryatt, grabbing the lead with the first attack of the game.

A long free-kick from Michael Clunan was headed back at the far post by Ryan Fryatt for Craig Parker to turn the ball home on the goal-line.

Yeltz were soon back on level terms when Jack Kelly crossed from the left for James Roberts to side-foot home.

Halesowen took a 49th minute lead when Lee Hughes converted from the penalty spot after he was tripped in the area. But the visitors found a late equaliser when Frazer Blake-Tracy delivered a great 83rd minute cross for Harry Limb to score with a bullet diving header.

Yeltz are in FA Cup action on Saturday, at home to Gainsborough in the second qualifying round.

Pottinger proud of Heathens' spirit

CRADLEY team boss Will Pottinger admitted he was "extremely proud" of his side as they went down with a fight in the National Trophy final.

The Heathens were facing almost Mission Impossible at Mildenhall after losing the first leg at home by 12 points. The Fen Tigers completed the double with a 49-41 win but Pottinger's lads made the home side battle all the way.

He said: "It was always going to be the impossible job for the boys. Mildenhall are undoubtedly the team of the year and deservedly so. The 12-point deficit was a mountain to climb but after going 18-6 down after just four heats the destination of the trophy was never in doubt.

"But we kept fighting and I was delighted with the spirit. I'm extremely proud of how they dug in and we actually won the second half of the meeting.

"We kept it down to eight points and the 5-1 in the last race was an excellent way to finish our season. I think we go away with our heads held high after an excellent performance all round."

The Heathens were 27-9 down after just six heats and it looked as if Mildenhall were going to run up a cricket score. But Nathan Stoneman and Tom Brennan hit back with a 4-2 over wonderkid Drew Kemp in heat seven and the mini-fightback began. Alfie Bowtell and Stoneman also teamed up for two late 5-1s to restore some pride to the scoreline.

Mildenhall 49: Ben Morley 9+1, Drew Kemp 9, Jordan Jenkins 9, Ryan Kinsley 7+2, Matt Marson 7+1, Sam Bebee 6+2, Josh Bailey 2. **Cradley** 41: Nathan Stoneman 14+2, Alfie Bowtell 10+1, Jason Edwards 7, Tom Brennan 6, Richard Andrews 3+1, James Chattin 1.

STOUR CLAIM A WIN BONUS

Stourbridge 29 Tynedale 24

A MINUTE'S silence was held before this game for Stourbridge club stalwarts Dave Platt and Roy Howell.

Once the game kicked off, it took just 12 minutes for Stour to get on the scoreboard as Joe Heatley dived over for his first try. Rickie Aley was unable to add the extras.

Stourbridge had to wait until the 38th minute for their next chance to stretch the lead. It all started with another trademark chip by Aley sending the ball high to the right in the direction of Mark Harrison. He leapt and tapped the ball to the waiting George Morgan. Instead of moving towards the posts, Morgan's clever pass to the outside found the Heatley who flat-footed the defence and strolled over for his brace and Aley converted.

Finding themselves 12-0 down at the break, was enough to galvanise the visitors into some second half action and it took just three minutes for Joe Mills to get them on the board. His try was too far out for No 10, Rob Parker, to convert. Dale only had to wait six minutes for their second try scored by Morgan Passman, on loan from Newcastle Falcons. Again, it was too far out for the conversion attempt.

The next score came from a Dale error, which allowed Harrison to race clear from 35m to outsprint the defence. Niall Gibbons was driven over for the next try, converted by Aley, and Stour had their bonus point.

Left wing Dan Rundle sprinted 50m to score in the left corner to extend the lead, before Nick Murphy was yellow carded and Tynedale were awarded a penalty try. Passman's second made use of the one-man advantage and closed the gap.

This weekend, Stourbridge head east into unknown territory to visit newly promoted Peterborough Lions.

● DK went down 57-8 to Bromsgrove with a first club try for Jake Thompson.

Winger Mark Harrison leaves the defence in his wake to go over in the corner for Stourbridge

Valuable two points for chess team

STOURBRIDGE were missing three key players for their opening Wednesday night chess game of the season in Wolverhampton division one against Stafford, although they were able to call on their best reserves.

The Stafford teamsheet included an international master in Lawrence Cooper. Martin Berridge won, while a Stafford opponent failed to arrive and Hossam Aboushady claimed a draw to leave Stourbridge needing just one pint to win the game.

Sam Bradley settled for a draw, but John Foxall was beaten. A draw for Nic Fallowfield against International Master Cooper meant Stourbridge won 3½-2½ for two very valuable points.

On Tuesday, Stourbridge lost 2½-1½ against Mercia in Dudley division 3 with team captain Steve Alcock getting a good draw against a higher graded opponent.

Stour take league title on final day

STOURBRIDGE reclaimed the top spot in the Birmingham League division three table to be crowned champions on the final day, capitalising on a nine-run defeat for Rugby.

Rugby's four-run victory over the Amblecote side the previous weekend had put them in pole position. But their defeat to Newport opened up the door for Stourbridge, and they duly obliged, beating Stratford-upon-Avon by eight wickets.

Dan Such (3-11) took the first three Stratford wickets before they reached 30 and it took 42 from Jim Harcourt to take them to 150 all out. Half-centuries from Jujhar Johal (54) and Matt Bradley (50 not out) saw Stourbridge and meant the pressure was on Rugby.

They failed to respond, finishing on 172 all out, in pursuit of Newport's 181-9. The visitors slumped to 116-8 before a belligerent 76 from 53 balls from Henry Wilkins. He was ninth out on 172 and the final wicket fell, without addition, to leave Stourbridge as title winners.

A century from Ed Kilbee (101) and a half-century from Alexei Kervezee (53) saw Halesowen to 267 all out against Himley as the season came to an end. Himley's Thomas Rhodes took 3-58 but only two of his side's batsmen scored more than 13, in reply, with Dan Durman the best with 83. Kervezee took 3-33 as Himley were bowled out for 198 in the first division clash. Shifnal clinched the second promotion spot behind champions Kidderminster.

Misfortune suffered by young scullers

A PAIR of Dudley Rowing Club scullers took to the water at Worcester Autumn Regatta. Ben Nolan and Sophie Glazzard, both aged 15, had to compete above their age group due to British Rowing's system of classification.

Nolan, against a 16-year-old, lost by two lengths over a buoyed 750m course. Glazzard unluckily went off course and was obstructed as her 17-year-old rival flagged while half a length ahead.

Their coach, 76-year-old Colin Lloyd and Stan Butler, 68, from Bridgnorth Rowing Club, finished two lengths behind two younger opponents in the Masters double sculls.

★★★

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